EXHIBIT F

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SUSAN McCARTHY,

Plaintiff,

- against -

Civil Action No. 15-CV-1468

ROOSEVELT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, DEBORAH L. WORTHAM, Individually and her Official capacity, CLYDE BRASWELL, Individually And in his official capacity, EDITH L. HIGGINS, Individually and in her official capacity; Roosevelt Union Free School District Employees JOHN DOE 1-10 (the name "John Doe" being fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown), COUNTY OF NASSAU, NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, POLICE OFFICER JOSEPH STASSI, Individually and in his official Capacity, POLICE OFFICER MONIQUE AMODEO, Individually and in her official capacity, MEDIC MATTHEW FIELD, Individually and in his Official Capacity, Nassau County employees John Doe 11-20 (the name "John Doe" being fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown),

Defendants.

1 West Street Mineola, New York

January 8, 2016 10:20 a.m.

EXAMINATION BEFORE TRIAL OF SUSAN MCCARTHY, the Plaintiff, herein, taken by the attorneys for the respective parties, pursuant to Notice, held at the above place and time before Susan DeGennaro, a Stenotype Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of New York.

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    BY: GERALD S. SMITH, ESQ.
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STIPULATIONS
IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by
and between the attorneys for the respective
parties hereto, that the filing, sealing and
certification of the within deposition shall be and
the same are hereby waived;
IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
That all objections, except as to form of the
Question, shall be reserved to the time of the
trial;
IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
That the within deposition may be signed before any
Notary Public with the same force and effect as if
signed and sworn to before the Court.

- 1 SUSAN MCCARTHY,
- 2 The witness herein, having first been duly
- 3 sworn by Susan DeGennaro, a Notary Public within
- 4 and for the State of New York, was examined and
- 5 testified as follows:
- 6 EXAMINATION BY GERALD S. SMITH, ESQ.:
- 7 Q Please state your name for the record.
- 8 A Susan McCarthy.
- 9 Q Please state your address for the record.
- 10 A 52 8th Street, Hicksville, New York
- 11 11801.
- MR. WOLIN: Before we start the
- questions, the Plaintiff is not waiving
- the reading or the signing of the
- 15 transcript.
- Q Good morning, Ms. McCarthy. We met
- 17 before, my name is Jerry Smith. I am an attorney who
- 18 has been retained by the school district to ask you
- 19 some questions today pertaining to your lawsuit.
- I will remind you, it's been a while
- 21 since we did this, I will refresh your memory in a
- 22 few ways so we can make things go easier today.
- First of all, the court reporter is going
- 24 to take down everything you and I say. One of the
- 25 things we can do to make that job easier for her is,

- 1 please make sure you give verbal responses. Even if
- 2 it is a yes or no answer, you have to articulate yes
- 3 or no. The court reporter can't take down a shake
- 4 of the head or an uh-huh or anything like that,
- 5 okay?
- 6 A Okay.
- 7 Q Also, it might become conversational with
- 8 us, you might know where my question is going, even
- 9 if that is the case, I would ask that you let me
- 10 finish my question before you start your answer.
- 11 At the same time, I will do my best to
- 12 make sure you have completed an answer before I
- 13 begin speaking, because if we speak over each other
- 14 it gets much more confusing for the court reporter,
- 15 okay?
- 16 A Okay.
- 17 Q If you need a break at any time, please
- 18 let us know, the only thing I would ask, if there is
- 19 a question pending, you answer the question before
- 20 we take that break, okay?
- 21 A Okay.
- 22 Q Finally, if there is anything about a
- 23 question that you don't understand, please let me
- 24 know, so I can rephrase it.
- 25 If you do answer a question, I am going

- 1 to assume you knew what I meant, okay?
- 2 A Okay.
- 3 Q Have you taken any medications in the
- 4 last twenty-four hours that might impair your
- 5 ability to testify truthfully and accurately today?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q Can you think of any other reasons why
- 8 you may not be able to testify truthfully and
- 9 accurately today?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q Do you recall providing testimony in
- 12 response to questions from me on or about September
- 13 4, 2014?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Subsequent to that day when you answered
- 16 my questions, do you recall if you were provided a
- 17 transcript of that examination for you to review?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Do you recall reviewing it?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Do you recall signing that transcript?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q At the time you signed it, do you recall
- 24 believing at the time, the testimony in the
- 25 transcript was truthful and accurate?

1 Α Yes. 2 0 Are you currently employed by the 3 Roosevelt Union Free School District? А Yes. What is your current position? First grade. Ά 7 0 Is that the same position you held September 2014 when we last spoke? 8 9 Α Yes. Between September 2014 and today has your 10 11 position changed at any time? 12 Α No. 13 You taught first grade the whole time? Q 14 Α Yes. 15 Who is your current building principal? Q. 16 Mr. Braswell. А 17 Q. Mr. Braswell was also the principal in 2015, correct? 18 19 Α Yes, he was. 20 At any point between September of 2014 21 and today have you had any other building 22 principals? 23 Α No. 24 Who are your current assistant Q principals? 25

8 1 Α Ms. Higgins. 2 0 Do you have any others? 3 Α No. 0 Since September 2014 between then and 5 today have you had any other assistant principals? 6 Α No. 7 Q. Are there any other individuals today who you would consider supervisors to whom you report? Α No. 10 Are there any individuals in the building today who perform, other than Mr. Braswell and Ms. 11 12 Higgins, who perform evaluations of you or observe 13 you in the classroom? MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can 14 15 answer. 16 Α No. 17 Between September 2014 and today have 18 there been any other individuals that you have 19 considered supervisors? 20 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can 21 answer. 22 Α No. 23 Since we last spoke in September of 24 2014, regarding Mr. Braswell or Ms. Higgins, made 25 any comments to you regarding your race or your age?

1 A No.

- 2 Q Has anyone in the school district made a
- 3 comment to you regarding your race or your age
- 4 since September 2014?
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q How many students do you have in your
- 7 current class?
- 8 A As of this moment twenty-four.
- 9 Q When you say as of this moment, has that
- 10 number fluctuated during the school year?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Can you give me a sense of how it has
- 13 fluctuated?
- 14 A Some children move. Some children live
- 15 with grandparents and come back. Some children are
- 16 out of district and when the district finds out that
- 17 the child is not supposed to be in that particular
- 18 school, they are sent to the proper school.
- 19 Q When this school year started in
- 20 September 2015, how many students were assigned to
- 21 your class?
- 22 A I don't remember.
- 23 Q Do you recall if it was more or less than
- the twenty-four you have now?
- 25 A I think, I don't remember.

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- 1 Q How many other sections of first grade
- 2 are there?
- 3 A There is four.
- 4 Q Do you know how many students are in each
- 5 of those other three classes?
- 6 A Three of them have about twenty-three
- 7 children in each. Bilingual class has a smaller
- 8 class.
- 9 Q Putting aside the bilingual class, the
- 10 other three sections, do you know if those numbers
- 11 have fluctuated during the school years?
- 12 A I would imagine, yes.
- 13 Q Do you know the names of the other
- 14 teachers who teach sections of first grade?
- 15 A This year?
- 16 O Yes.
- 17 A Ms. Bernard, Ms. Miles, myself, and
- 18 Ms. Martinelli.
- 19 Q With regard to Ms. Bernard, what is her
- 20 race, how would you describe her race?
- 21 A She is Jamaican.
- O How about Ms. Miles?
- 23 A Ms. Miles is Black.
- 24 Q How about Ms. Martinelli?
- 25 A Hispanic.

- 1 Q Do you know approximately how old
- 2 Ms. Bernard is?
- 3 A No.
- 4 Q Do you know if she is over forty?
- 5 A I am not really good with ages.
- MR. WOLIN: Don't guess, if you don't
- 7 know, say you don't know.
- 8 A I don't know.
- 9 O How about either Ms. Miles or
- 10 Ms. Martinelli?
- 11 A Ms. Martinelli is around that, forty-ish.
- 12 And Ms. Miles I would think is in her fifties.
- 13 Q Have you complained to anyone in the
- 14 district this current school year that you have more
- 15 children in your class than there are in the other
- 16 sections of first grade?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Since September 2014 have either
- 19 Ms. Braswell or Ms. Higgins taken any action against
- 20 you that you feel were due to your race or age?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q Have you received observation reports for
- 23 evaluation since 2014?
- 24 A Last year, '14, '15.
- 25 Q Let me go back, the last time we spoke

- 1 was in September 2014, correct?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q In a given school year, how many times are
- 4 you evaluated?
- 5 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can answer
- 6 it.
- 7 A There is five minis and two formals.
- 8 Q Since September 2014, if you recall
- 9 roughly, how many minis and how many formals have
- 10 you received?
- 11 A Seven.
- 12 Q Have they all been conducted or completed
- 13 by either Mr. Braswell or Ms. Higgins?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Would you describe those as positive or
- 16 negative evaluations?
- 17 A Positive.
- 18 Q The curriculum that you teach in your
- 19 first grade this year, is that curriculum guided to
- 20 some degree by the common core standards?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Is that the case for all the other
- 23 sections of first grade?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q That is pretty much the case for all

- 1 teachers in the district; isn't it?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q Is it your contention that the common
- 4 core curriculum requirements that are applied to you
- 5 are being applied to you because of your race or
- 6 age?
- 7 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can
- 8 answer.
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q Are there any ways you can identify today
- 11 that you believe you were discriminated against
- 12 since September 2014 by anyone in the district?
- 13 A No.
- Q When we spoke in September 2014 I believe
- 15 you identified that you were taking some
- 16 prescription medications; do you recall that?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Do you recall what medications you were
- 19 taking in September 2014?
- 20 A Yes.
- Q What were they?
- 22 A Topamax, Zoloft, which is Sertraline,
- 23 which is the Generic brand. And Lipitor and Fiorinal
- 24 which is a breakthrough medication for my migraines.
- 25 And then --

- 1 MR. WOLIN: We can leave a space in the
- 2 record and fill in the medications.
- 3 (INSERT)
- 4 Q Prior to September 2014 how long have you
- 5 been taking the medications.
- 6 MR. WOLIN: Objection, each one?
- 7 Q Yes, why don't you go through each one?
- 8 A I'm sorry, I don't know if I could break
- 9 it down.
- 10 Q Okay, are you still taking all of those
- 11 medications today?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Has there been any point in time between
- 14 September of 2014 and today where you stopped taking
- any one of those medications?
- 16 A No.
- 17 Q Have your dosages of those medications
- 18 changed since September 2014?
- 19 A No.
- Q When is the last time your dosage for any
- 21 of those medications was altered?
- MR. WOLIN: If they, in fact, have
- been. I don't think she testified they
- have been.
- 25 A I don't recall.

- 1 Q Who is the medical providers that
- 2 prescribe those medications to you?
- 3 A My general practitioner.
- 4 Q Do you currently see any providers other
- 5 than your general practitioner?
- 6 A I have a neurologist.
- When did you begin seeing a neurologist?
- 8 A About six or seven years ago.
- 9 Q Since September 2014 have you seen a
- 10 psychiatrist or psychologist?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Have you visited with a therapist?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q In September 2014 I believe you testified
- 15 you had been diagnosed with depression and anxiety;
- 16 is that correct?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Are you still diagnosed with those
- 19 conditions today?
- 20 A Nothing has changed, so, yes.
- 21 Q Other than your general practitioner or
- 22 your neurologist, you don't see any other providers
- in connection with those conditions, correct?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q The medications that you identified, do

- 1 you take them on a daily basis?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q Has there been a point in time since
- 4 September 2014 and now where the frequency in which
- 5 you took them changed?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q I recall from the last time we spoke, the
- 8 breakthrough medicine for you migraines, that is
- 9 something you take on an as needed basis, correct?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Since September 2014 until today, do you
- 12 know on how many occasions you had to take that
- 13 breakthrough medication?
- 14 A It has increased since then.
- 15 Q How would you describe the frequency, is it a
- weekly, monthly event?
- 17 A I would say I take it weekly instead of
- 18 monthly. I would take it twice a month, now I take
- 19 it at least once a week.
- 20 Q That is because the migraine has become
- 21 so powerful?
- 22 A Yes.
- Q When is it that you first started to take
- 24 the breakthrough medication at this increased
- 25 basis?

- 1 A Right around the incident time.
- 2 Q The incident that we are talking about
- 3 was in May of 2014, correct?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Have you seen any medical providers to
- 6 talk about the fact that you are taking this
- 7 breakthrough medication or need to take this more
- 8 frequently?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q Has anybody advised you that you should
- 11 see someone about this issue?
- 12 A My children.
- 13 Q When these migraines occur that require
- 14 the breakthrough medication, do these migraines
- 15 occur during the day?
- 16 A They could occur any time.
- 17 Q Have they occurred during the day?
- 18 A Yeah.
- 19 Q Have they occurred while you were at
- 20 work?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Have there been occasions since September
- of 2014 you had to leave work early because of your
- 24 migraines?
- 25 A No.

- 1 Q When you take the breakthrough
- 2 medication, how long typically is it you feel the
- 3 effects of that medication?
- 4 A Sometimes immediately and sometimes I
- 5 need a second dose.
- 6 Q Could you describe for me, first of all,
- 7 when you have the onset of a migraine, what are the
- 8 symptoms, what do you feel?
- 9 A It usually starts with pressure on both
- 10 sides of my head here. It effects my eyes, my
- 11 eyesight. Lights bother my eyes. Sometimes it
- 12 comes up from the back of my neck, that is usually
- 13 the beginning of it.
- 14 Q How does the breakthrough medication calm
- 15 those affects?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 17 A I am not a doctor, sometimes it
- immediately goes away.
- 19 Q I am not asking how chemically it helps,
- 20 when you take the medication, how do you feel after
- 21 you take the medication?
- 22 A Great.
- 23 Q The pressure goes away?
- 24 A In years before it just went right away.
- 25 Now sometimes it doesn't go right away.

- 1 Q How long do you wait before you take that
- 2 second dose?
- 3 A Six hours.
- 4 Q During those six hours, are you still
- 5 feeling the effects of the migraine?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Of the medications that you were
- 8 prescribed including the breakthrough, the Zoloft,
- 9 have you ever been advised that these medications
- 10 might affect your memory in anyway?
- 11 A Topamax has a problem with retrieval,
- 12 word retrieval, if I get excited and I want to say
- 13 something, the word might not come to me. I might
- 14 have difficulty remembering it. They said that was
- 15 a side effect, but other than that, no.
- 16 Q Have you ever been advised that these may
- impact your memory when mixed with other substances
- 18 or medications?
- 19 A Alcohol makes you tired.
- 20 Q Other than making you tired, have you
- 21 ever been advised these medications along with
- 22 alcohol will impact you in any way?
- 23 A Not to my knowledge.
- Q How often do you consume alcohol?
- 25 A Occasionally with dinner a glass of wine.

- 1 Q What do you mean by occasionally?
- 2 A Once in a while.
- When you say once in a while, is that less
- 4 than on a nightly basis?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Is it three times a week?
- 7 A No.
- 8 Q Less than that?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Has there ever been a point in time where
- 11 you were consuming alcohol on a more frequent basis
- 12 than once in a while?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q When was that?
- 15 A 2013 to 2014.
- 16 Q During that year, can you describe your
- 17 consumption of alcohol?
- 18 A I know I would come home stressed from
- 19 work and want to have a drink. I don't remember how
- 20 often it was, but more than I usually drink. Not in
- 21 excess, but more than I did.
- 22 Q How many drinks would you have when you
- 23 would have them to relax?
- A One, but more in a week than I would
- 25 normally have.

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- 1 Q You say that was during the 2013, 2014
- 2 school year?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q How old were you during the 2013, 2014
- 5 school year?
- 6 A I am sixty-four now, so sixty-two.
- 7 Q Do you recall if you had consumed alcohol
- 8 the night before the May 28th incident?
- 9 A I doubt it.
- 10 Q Why do you doubt it?
- 11 A I was very happy that day. I remember
- 12 going into school and singing and fooling around in
- 13 the classroom with one of the other teachers, I was
- 14 very happy that day.
- One of the issues that you described I
- 16 think before as a result of your anxiety and
- 17 depression was that you were vulnerable to panic
- 18 attacks; is that correct?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q Since September 2014 have you had a panic
- 21 attack?
- 22 A Since September of 2014 have I had a
- 23 panic attack?
- Q Yes.
- 25 A Not that I recall.

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1 Q Do you recall prior to our discussion in

2 September 2014, do you recall the last time prior to

- 3 that you had a panic attack?
- 4 A I had several before that time.
- Do you recall approximately when those
- 6 were?
- 7 A I had several during the school year.
- 8 Q When you say the school year, are you
- 9 referring to the 2013, 2014 school year?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Did you have any panic attacks prior to
- 12 what you and I know as the May 28th incident?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q How many panic attacks do you think you
- 15 had prior to May 28, 2014, during that school year?
- 16 A Several, I wouldn't know how to count
- 17 them, but several.
- 18 Q Were all those panic attacks similar in
- 19 terms of the symptoms and the physical feelings?
- 20 A Nothing like the last one, no, I would
- 21 say.
- MR. WOLIN: He is not asking you
- that. He is asking if all the ones prior
- 24 were similar?
- 25 A The ones prior were panic attacks, not

- 1 full blown panic attacks.
- 2 Q Can you describe what you mean by a full
- 3 blown panic attack?
- A A full blown panic would be the one I
- 5 would have to go home, I wouldn't be able to cope.
- 6 Q Are there physical symptoms that occur or
- 7 that you notice when are you going through a full
- 8 blown panic attack?
- 9 A A regular panic day attack would be the
- 10 racing heart and not being able to catch your breath
- 11 type of thing.
- 12 Q What is the difference between that and a
- 13 full blown panic attack?
- 14 A A full blown panic attack I would assume
- 15 you can't function --
- MR. WOLIN: Nobody wants you to
- 17 assume. I think your question is as far
- as she feels, not medically, right?
- MR. SMITH: Right.
- 20 A The full blown one I felt ready to
- 21 collapse. I had severe chest pains and I couldn't
- 22 like, I just had severe chest pains, the migraine
- 23 started from the back of my neck and went straight
- 24 up, it was the worse pain I ever felt.
- I had very bad migraines, but none like

- 1 that one. I was bending over, I couldn't keep my
- 2 head up. My legs felt wobbly. I felt like I was
- 3 going to collapse.
- 4 Q This attack, was this the attack that
- 5 occurred on May 28th?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q When you had the full blown panic attack,
- 8 in addition to the physical symptoms you just
- 9 described, how would you describe your train of
- 10 thought while this attack was going on, would you
- 11 describe yourself as clearheaded?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 13 A I was hysterically crying.
- 14 Q Since September 2014 till today, have you
- 15 consulted with any type of medical professional with
- 16 regard to the panic attacks specifically?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Have you been hospitalized overnight
- 19 since September 2014?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q Have you visited an emergency room since
- 22 September 2014?
- 23 A No.
- MR. SMITH: Mark these documents.
- 25 (Whereupon, a packet of documents

- were marked Defendant's Exhibit A for 1
- 2 identification, as of this date.)
- 3 I will hand you what has been marked as
- 4 Defendant's Exhibit A. What I would like you to do
- 5 is take a moment and look through that document.
- 6 MR. SMITH: While you do, I will
- 7 identify for the record that this is a
- document produced by Plaintiff date 8
- 9 stamped McCarthy 23 through McCarthy 39.
- 10 Do you recognize this document? 0
- 11 Α Yes.
- 12 0 What is that document?
- 1.3 Α This is a notebook that I wrote.
- 14 0 When did you write these notes?
- 15 When I called my union rep, right after I
- 16 called my union rep.
- 17 Q Do you recall when that was?
- 18 Α May 29th.
- 19 Did your union rep suggest that you write
- 20 these notes?
- 21 No, I don't think so. Α
- 22 Q. Was there something specific that
- 23 prompted you to begin writing these notes on May
- 24 29th?
- 25 No, I usually, when I want to remember Α

- 1 something, when I make phone calls or do anything
- 2 like that I usually write things down.
- 3 Q Is that to help your memory recall --
- 4 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 5 A No, just to organize myself, because I
- 6 don't like talking on the telephone.
- 7 Q Prior to May 29th had you ever written
- 8 down notes or entries of any type regarding what was
- 9 happening at work?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q The document we have here, these pages,
- does this represent the entirety of all the notes
- 13 you wrote?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Have you written any notes since this has
- 16 been provided?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q What I would like to do, I would like to
- 19 go through and ask you about some of the things you
- 20 wrote in here.
- On the first page McCarthy 23, the very
- 22 first entry, I will read it and we will discuss it.
- 23 It states, Jeff he called NYSET and said it was a
- 24 slam dung, Braswell caused reaction to her medical
- 25 condition, didn't call timely fashion.

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- 1 Could you explain what you meant by that
- 2 entry?
- 3 A I called Jeff Pullen, he is the union
- 4 rep. He said he called NYSET, which is our union,
- 5 and said that they said to him that the way that
- 6 Braswell had talked to me caused my panic attack and
- 7 that was cause for a lawsuit.
- 8 And that because they called the police
- 9 three hours after the incident that, you know, that
- 10 it was not a fair thing to do. If they had been so
- 11 concerned about me, it should have been in a more
- 12 timely fashion.
- Q When this phrase, said it was slam dung,
- 14 this is Mr. Pullen quoting someone from NYSET?
- 15 A Yes.
- Q What do they mean by, this is a slam
- 17 dung?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 19 A No idea.
- Q When you were discussing this with
- 21 Mr. Pullen, were you discussing a lawsuit, that a
- 22 lawsuit would be a slam dunk?
- 23 A I don't know, I just wrote down what he
- 24 said to me.
- 25 Q The next entry has a reference to call

- 1 Sylvia to get paperwork for a medical leave. Why
- 2 were you calling someone to get paperwork for
- 3 medical leave on May 29th?
- 4 A Because I didn't want to go back to
- 5 school.
- Q Were you advised by anyone that there was
- 7 a medical reason why you were not able to go back to
- 8 work?
- 9 A I felt I was --
- MR. WOLIN: Answer his question, he
- said were you advised by anybody?
- 12 A Mr. Pullen said to me to get a medical
- leave if I felt that I wasn't able to go back to
- 14 school.
- 15 Q At the time, did you feel that you were
- 16 not able to go back to work?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Why did you feel you were not able to go
- 19 back to work?
- 20 A I felt I was being bullied, I didn't
- 21 think I had the strength to go back.
- Q What do you mean when you say you didn't
- 23 have the strength to go back?
- 24 A I felt I broke down. I didn't think I
- 25 was able to withstand another month of that.

- 1 Q The next entry, well, actually in that
- 2 paragraph it also says, call hospital for records
- 3 doctor to show existing medical condition. What did
- 4 you mean by that?
- 5 A Not sure, I don't remember that.
- 6 Q Did you believe at the time there was
- 7 something about an existing medical condition that
- 8 was going to prevent you from being able to go back
- 9 to work?
- 10 A I truthfully I don't remember what it was
- 11 for. It might have been --
- MR. WOLIN: If you don't remember,
- say you don't remember, then you are
- 14 guessing.
- 15 Q The next entry, call lawyer for lawsuit.
- 16 Did someone advise you to call a lawyer?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 O Who did?
- 19 A Jeff Pullen.
- 20 Q In looks Article 26, Section B, what is
- 21 that in reference to?
- 22 A It says reprimand or discipline.
- Q Right, do you know what that means?
- 24 A It was probably something Jeff told me to
- 25 look up.

- 1 Q Do you know if this is an Article in your
- 2 collective bargaining agreement?
- 3 A I don't know.
- 4 Q Below that is the contact information for
- 5 your attorney Alan Wollin?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Was that provided to you by Jeff Pullen?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q After you spoke to Jeff Pullen and he
- 10 relayed the conversation he had with NYSET, do you
- 11 know if the union did file a grievance on your
- 12 behalf?
- 13 A I believe he filed a grievance against
- 14 Mr. Braswell, yes.
- Do you know if at any point in time he
- 16 filed a grievance against Ms. Higgins?
- 17 A That I don't know.
- 18 Q Do you recall what the basis for that
- 19 grievance was?
- 20 A The one that I am aware of was that he
- 21 disciplined me in front of my peers.
- 22 On how many occasions had he disciplined
- 23 you in front of your peers?
- 24 A That one, the incident.
- 25 Q This occurred at the meeting that

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- 1 morning?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q Do you recall how many people were
- 4 present for that meeting?
- 5 A The whole first grade team and
- 6 Ms. Higgins.
- 7 Q How many people total would that have
- 8 been?
- 9 A Six people.
- 10 Q When you wrote these notes, did you write
- 11 them all at once?
- 12 A No.
- 13 Q I believe you said you had begun writing
- 14 on May 29th?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Did you then write them over a course of
- 17 days?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q At the time you were writing them, did
- 20 you believe the recollections in these notes were
- 21 accurate?
- 22 A Yes.
- Q When is the last time you reviewed these
- 24 notes?
- 25 A I'm not sure.

1 Q Did you review any documents to prepare

- 2 for today's deposition?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q What documents did you review?
- 5 A The two depositions that I did with you,
- 6 with the County and school district.
- 7 Q The transcripts of your testimony?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q When was that, that you reviewed those
- 10 transcripts?
- 11 A Last night.
- 12 Q Did you meet with your attorney at all to
- 13 prepare for today?
- 14 A Yes, yesterday.
- 15 Q For how long?
- 16 A Forty-five minutes.
- 17 Q I would like you to turn, if you could,
- 18 to page stamped McCarthy 25. Do you recall when you
- 19 wrote this entry?
- 20 A I don't remember when I wrote it, but I
- 21 remember writing it.
- Q With regard to this or any of the entries
- 23 that are in this document, did anyone assist you in
- 24 writing any entries?
- 25 A No.

- 1 Q Did anyone review these notes after you
- 2 wrote them?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 4 Q Did you provide these notes to anyone to
- 5 review?
- 6 A No, I gave it to my lawyer when you
- 7 wanted it for discovery.
- 8 Q In between the time when you wrote them
- 9 and provided them to your attorney, did you share
- 10 them with anyone?
- 11 A I think I might have read them to my
- 12 daughter.
- 13 Q Did your daughter have any suggestions as
- 14 to things you should change in these notes?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q After providing them to your Counsel, I
- 17 am not asking about conversations with your Counsel,
- 18 but subsequent to that time, have you shared them
- 19 with anyone else, other than your Counsel?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q At anytime has anyone reviewed or
- 22 commented on them?
- 23 A No.
- 24 Q Before you gave them to your Counsel did
- 25 you edit them in any way?

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1 A No.

- 2 Q You wrote them --
- 3 A You can tell how sloppy it is they --
- 4 MR. WOLIN: All right, just answer
- 5 the question.
- On to page twenty-five, you don't recall
- 7 exactly when you wrote this entry, whether it was on
- 8 May 29th or another day, correct?
- 9 A Correct.
- 10 Q Going to the next page McCarthy 26.
- 11 There is a, I can't tell you how many lines down,
- 12 right around the middle you will see an entry and it
- 13 states I was and then there is just a line.
- 14 A Word retrieval.
- 15 MR. WOLIN: He didn't ask you a
- 16 question, he made a comment.
- 17 Q It is about eleven lines up, you see
- 18 that?
- 19 A Yes.
- Q When you say the word retrieval, at the time
- 21 you couldn't think of the word you wanted to use?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Looking at it now, do you know what the
- 24 word was you were trying to think of at the time?
- 25 A I still can't think of what the word was,

- 1 I was pushing her away.
- MR. WOLIN: He is asking if you know
- 3 the word?
- 4 A No.
- 5 Q The next page, page twenty seven, you
- 6 state at one point you described that you were
- 7 having the worst migraine I ever experienced. Do you
- 8 see that?
- 9 A Worst migraine I ever experienced.
- 10 Q You see that?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q This is referring to the migraine that
- 13 occurred on May 28th, correct?
- 14 A Correct.
- 15 Q Then you state, the psychologist showed
- 16 up next to me and told me to calm down, too late,
- 17 was already having panic attack.
- 18 First of all, do you recall the name of
- 19 the psychologist that showed up next to you?
- 20 A Swinkin.
- 21 Q Where were you when you were having this
- 22 migraine and panic attack?
- 23 A I walked down the hallway, I was at the
- 24 end of the hallway and she showed up on my left
- 25 side.

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1 MR. WOLIN: When you say she?

- 2 A Ms. Swinkin was on my left side, my
- 3 friend Julie came out, we entered.
- 4 Q What is Julie's last name?
- 5 A Scandaglia.
- 6 Q You state here that your friend Julie,
- 7 they placed you in a wheelchair at that time,
- 8 correct?
- 9 A Yes.
- They wheeled you into the psychologist's
- 11 office?
- 12 A No, the nurse's office.
- 13 Q When they wheeled you into the nurse's
- 14 office, can you describe what the nurse's office
- 15 looked like?
- 16 A It is a small room. It has, actually, it
- 17 is a larger room, but it was curtained off, there
- 18 were curtains in the back.
- I was in the open part of the room where
- 20 the two hallways connect. I was closest to the
- 21 door. I wasn't really in, in the nurse's office, I
- 22 was more in the doorway, where the doorways connect.
- 23 Q When you say the doorways connect, what
- 24 doorways are you talking about?
- 25 A There is an outside doorway, from the

- 1 hallway you go in a door and there's a little bit of
- 2 a hallway to get into the nurse's office and another
- 3 hallway connects the main office to the nurse's
- 4 office and I was in that area right there.
- 5 Q Do you recall this nurse's office, are
- 6 there windows in the office?
- 7 A Yeah.
- 8 Q How many?
- 9 A There's like three large ones, but that
- 10 is further back. And there's a little tiny nurse's
- 11 office where she has her own closed door and
- 12 computer and things over to the right.
- 13 Q When Ms. Swinkin and Ms. Scandaglia
- 14 wheeled you into this office, was the nurse there?
- 15 A No.
- Q Was anyone there besides Ms. Swinkin and
- 17 Ms. Scandaglia?
- 18 A No.
- MR. WOLIN: Can we take a break.
- 20 (Whereupon, there was a pause in the
- 21 proceeding.)
- 22 Q Sticking to page twenty-seven for a
- 23 moment. You state in the middle of the page when
- 24 you are referring to your friend Julie came and got
- 25 a wheelchair for you, you claim that she or they got

38 your pocketbook to get your medicine for you; do you 1 recall that? 3 Α Yes. 4 What medicine? 0 5 Α The breakthrough medicine. 6 Did you take it at that time? Q. 7 Α Yes. 8 What form is that in? 0 9 MR. WOLIN: Objection. 10 Α It is in a capsule. 11 0 How many capsules do you take per --12 Α Two. 13 Q Do you have any idea of what the dosage is 14 of that capsule, the milligrams or anything like 15 that? 16 Α No. 17 Would that information be, for example, 18 on the label of the bottle? 19 Α I don't know. 20 Do you have any records that you know of that would indicate the dosage of that medication 21 22 or for any of the other medications you take? 23 Α Yes. 24 Q You took two pills at that time, correct? 25 Α Yes.

- 1 Q You had taken all your other medication
- 2 that morning, correct?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Do you recall whether, did the dosage,
- 5 did the breakthrough medicine work?
- 6 A No.
- 7 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 8 Q At some point, did you take a second dose
- 9 of the breakthrough medicine that day?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q Going to the bottom of that page, you
- 12 state I kept repeating how all these months Braswell
- 13 has been bullying me and causing such stress, I was
- 14 sick every night. Who was in the room when you were
- 15 saying this?
- 16 A There was people coming in and out of the
- 17 room, Swinkin was in the room, I know that for
- 18 sure, because she sat with me the entire time. That
- 19 is the only person I can say absolutely was there.
- Q Were there other people that were there
- 21 part of the time?
- 22 A Yes.
- Q Who would that be?
- 24 A The nurse at one time was there.
- 25 Ms. Higgins was there at one time. Ms. Beno was in

- 1 and out. Julie was in and out.
- 2 Q At the time you made these statements
- 3 about Mr. Braswell bullying you and being sick every
- 4 night, do you recall specifically who was in the
- 5 room?
- 6 A I don't recall.
- 7 MR. WOLIN: She did indicate at least
- one person was in the room at all times.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, Ms. Swinkin.
- 10 Q Ms. Swinkin was sitting with you,
- 11 correct?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Were you in the wheelchair the whole
- 14 time?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q At any point did you move to another
- 17 seat?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q Where was she sitting in relation to you?
- 20 A To my left.
- 21 Q What did you mean when you said you were
- 22 sick every night?
- 23 A Because of the constant put downs I, and
- the children having all of the problems that they
- 25 were having, I was stressed and felt demoralized

1 every night coming home from work.

- 2 Q Did you feel physically sick?
- 3 A It made me physically sick, yes.
- 4 Q In what way?
- 5 A My stomach hurt, I was fatigued, I was
- 6 depressed.
- 7 Q On the nights when your stomach hurt and
- 8 you were fatigued, were these the evenings you were
- 9 consuming one drink or so to relax?
- 10 A No, those were the nights I just went to
- 11 bed early.
- 12 Q On the nights you were sick you would not
- 13 drink?
- 14 A Right.
- 15 Q It says here you were sick every night?
- 16 A Okay, yes.
- 17 Q The next statement says you had a Xanax
- in your purse?
- 19 A Yes.
- Q Did you take the Xanax at that time?
- 21 A Yes, I was encouraged by Ms. Swinkin to
- 22 take it.
- 23 Q Do you recall any other occasions prior to
- 24 this that you took both the breakthrough medication
- 25 and the Xanax at the same time?

- 1 A No.
- 2 Q Have you ever consulted with a doctor
- 3 about taking those two medications at the same time?
- 4 A No.
- 5 Q This issue of you feeling sick every
- 6 night, how long had that been going on prior to this
- 7 incident?
- 8 A Almost the whole school year.
- 9 Q Did you ever seek any sort of medical
- 10 help for that?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Do you still feel sick every night?
- 13 A No.
- Q When did that stop?
- 15 A Beginning of September 2014.
- 16 Q Between May 28th and September of 2014,
- 17 between that time, were you sick every night?
- 18 A I was depressed, I wasn't sick.
- 19 Q Do you still feel depressed at night now?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q On page twenty-eight, the next page, nine
- 22 lines down you state, I started screaming at the top
- of my voice, get away from me, I am going to have a
- 24 nervous breakdown. Do you recall doing that in the
- 25 room?

- 1 A Yes.
- 3 you screamed that?
- 4 A The teacher that was yelling in my ear, I
- 5 recall her, the substitute teacher.
- 6 Q It was a substitute teacher yelling in
- 7 your ear?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q What was her name?
- 10 A I didn't know her, so I don't recall her
- 11 name.
- 12 Q What was she yelling?
- 13 A St. Louis was her name, don't know for
- 14 sure. She had started the whole process, the reason
- 15 for the meeting was she had brought the meeting on.
- 16 She was telling me how sorry she was.
- 17 It seemed to me at the time she was
- 18 yelling. I said get away from me, you are yelling
- 19 in my ear, get away from me.
- 21 was yelling, had you come to learn since she was
- 22 actually not yelling?
- 23 A No.
- 24 Q You believe she was yelling in your ear?
- 25 A Yes.

- 1 Q Were there other individuals present when
- 2 she was yelling in your ear?
- 3 A Ms. Swinkin, maybe Ms. Higgins, I really
- 4 don't know who else was there.
- When you screamed, get away from me, were
- 6 you screaming that at her, or at everyone in general?
- 7 A At her.
- 8 Q Is there a reason why you didn't mention
- 9 in these notes that she had been screaming in your
- 10 ear?
- 11 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can
- 12 answer.
- 13 A No. I wasn't trying to write --
- MR. WOLIN: Answer the question, you
- 15 said no.
- 16 Q When you wrote down these notes, what is
- 17 the purpose of writing these notes?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection, she answered,
- 19 you can answer again.
- 20 A I was just writing down what happened.
- 21 There was no purpose really, to cleanse myself.
- 22 Q Did you review them after you wrote them
- 23 to see if there were details that you left out?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q Screaming at the top of your voice,

- 1 telling one or more people that you were going to
- 2 have a nervous breakdown, was that something
- 3 unusual for you to do?
- 4 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can
- 5 answer.
- 6 A I wasn't screaming at everybody, I was
- 7 screaming at her. And, yes, it's unusual for me to
- 8 be like that.
- 9 Q Emotionally when this was going on, were
- 10 you crying, were you upset?
- 11 A Yes, the entire time I was at the school
- 12 I was crying.
- 13 Q Later only at the bottom of that page you
- 14 state that you were telling someone in the room that
- when Dr. Right was the principal, she knew and cared
- 16 about health and family. And she knew you had
- depression and had panic attacks and you took
- 18 medication for it?
- 19 A Yes.
- A Ms. Higgins was in the room then,
- 22 Swinkin, the nurse. I think that was all in the
- 23 room at that time.
- Q Would you agree that after making that
- 25 statement everyone who heard you in the room would

- 1 now also be aware you suffered from depression, had
- 2 panic attacks and took medication?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q When you were making these statements,
- 6 were you still emotionally upset?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q Were you still crying?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q You mentioned a few people in the room at
- 11 the time you made the statements, where were they in
- 12 relation to you?
- A Ms. Higgins was to my right, Ms. Swinkin
- 14 still to my left and Ms. Chester was behind me.
- 15 Q Prior to this on the same page you state
- 16 the psychiatrist was asking you questions. Do you
- 17 recall what questions she asked you?
- 18 A She asked me what medicine I was taking,
- 19 did I need to take more medicine. I said, no, I
- 20 took just enough. Then she just told me I should go
- 21 home, I said I know, I need to go home and lie down.
- 22 Q Moving on to next pain, page twenty nine,
- 23 you state, I believe you are quoting the
- 24 psychiatrist at this time, she said I wish you would
- 25 calm down and stop shaking; do you see this?

47 1 Α Yes. 2 Q Were you physically shaking at that time? 3 A I don't recall. 4 Q Then you say, I told her I would take a 5 Xanax, did you mean Xanax or something different? 6 Α Xanax. 7 0 Did you take one at that time? 8 Α Yes. Q Was this in addition to the one you took 10 earlier? 11 Α No. 12 Q How many Xanax pills did you take? 13 Α One. 14 I started to calm down, so do you recall the Xanax calming you down? 15 16 А Yes. 17 You then go on to say, we talked about 18 how it was when Dr. Right was there. I told her a long time ago I had a hard class and I told her if 19 20 she didn't help me, I was going to jump out the 21 The joke was I was on the ground floor. 22 Higgins asked if I would ever hurt 23 myself, I said, of course not, I have a family I 24 love to take care of, I would never hurt them like 25 that. Do you recall writing that?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q Do you recall making that statement in
- 3 the room at the time?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Who was in the room when you made that
- 6 statement?
- 7 A I would think the same people.
- 8 Q Where were they standing in relation to
- 9 you when you made this statement?
- 10 A Same places.
- 11 Q This is after you had started to calm
- 12 down as a result of the Xanax?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q In terms of your tone of voice, were you
- 15 speaking in a softer tone than you had been prior?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 17 A I believe I was calmer.
- 18 Q When you said this, were you looking
- 19 specifically at one of the individuals in the room?
- 20 A I believe I was talking to Ms. Higgins.
- 21 Q After you made this statement, did anyone
- 22 other than Ms. Higgins comment on it?
- 23 A No.
- 24 Q Sitting here today, are you certain that
- 25 everyone in the room heard the entirety of what you

1 said?

- 2 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 3 Α Yes.
- 0 How could you be certain of that?
- Α I was speaking in a normal voice.
- Did you ask everyone at any point, either
- 7 that day or subsequent, whether they heard
- 8 everything that you said?
- 9 Α No.
- 10 I believe you stated earlier that
- 11 there were people coming in and out of the room,
- 12 some only there for parts of the time, correct?
- 13 Α Yes.
- 14 At the time you made this specific
- statement, are you sitting here today with absolute 15
- 16 certainty as to who was in the room for the entire
- 17 time or is it possible people were coming in and out
- 18 as you described earlier?
- 19 MR. WOLIN: When you say the entire
- 20 time, the entire time in the room or
- 21 making this statement.
- 22 MR. SMITH: Making the statement.
- 23 At this time there were no more people
- 24 coming in and out.
- 25 Q Who exactly was in the room?

- 1 A Swinkin, the nurse and Ms. Higgins.
- 2 Q At any point subsequent to May 28th, have
- 3 you ever been asked whether on the day you had made
- 4 comments, even casually about hurting yourself?
- 5 A I don't understand the question.
- 6 Q Subsequent to May 28th you've met with
- 7 different people who asked you questions about that
- 8 day, correct?
- 9 A Like you?
- 10 Q Like myself.
- 11 A Okay.
- 12 Q Had you also met with a doctor who asked
- 13 you questions about that day?
- 14 A Dr. Solomon.
- 15 Q Did Dr. Solomon ask you questions about
- 16 what you might have said to people that day while in
- 17 the office?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Do you recall whether or not you told him
- 20 about this statement?
- 21 A I said I absolutely did not say I was
- 22 going to hurt myself.
- 23 Q Did you tell him about this statement at
- 24 all?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.

- 1 A I don't recall.
- 2 Q According to you and your notes, this
- 3 statement it was a joke you had made to a prior
- 4 previous principal, correct?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q At the time you made the statement to the
- 7 people in the room on May 28th, did you explain to
- 8 all of them it had all been a joke?
- 9 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q How exactly did you tell them that it had
- 12 been a joke?
- MR. WOLIN: When you say it had been
- 14 a joke --
- MR. SMITH: The statement to jump out
- a window.
- 17 A It was in reference to having the
- 18 principal know us intimately, knowing everybody's
- 19 family, know what we were about.
- I had a rough class, I said, Dr. Right
- 21 you have to help me out with a child otherwise I
- 22 will jump out the window. I said Dr. Right, you
- 23 know I am on the first floor, and everybody laughed.
- 24 She thought I was so funny, I said it like that and
- 25 I said it was a joke.

- 1 Q Moving on, Ms. Higgins did ask you
- 2 whether or not you were serious, correct?
- 3 A Yes, she did.
- 4 Q According to here, you said, of course
- 5 not, I have a family I love to take care of, I would
- 6 never hurt them like that?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q Is that what you recall saying to Ms.
- 9 Higgins at that time, that you wouldn't hurt
- 10 yourself because you didn't want to hurt your
- 11 family?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 13 A I would never hurt myself and I would
- 14 never hurt anyone.
- 15 Q When Ms. Higgins asked you if you
- 16 seriously would hurt yourself, how come you just
- 17 didn't tell her, oh, I was joking?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 19 A I might have said that.
- 20 Q That is not what is in these notes,
- 21 correct?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- MR. SMITH: What is the objection?
- MR. WOLIN: Notes speak for
- 25 themselves.

- 1 A I didn't write this as a statement to
- 2 what I said verbatim, I just wrote down my thoughts
- 3 of that day. I didn't know this was going to be
- 4 used as anything in Court or anything like that. I
- 5 wouldn't think I put down everything I said.
- 6 Q We looked at six pages so far. In the
- 7 review we've done so far, have you recognized
- 8 anything that was left out, that you left?
- 9 A I could go back and rewrite it all.
- 10 MR. WOLIN: Just answer the question.
- 11 A Would you repeat the question?
- 12 Q In terms of these notes, specifically
- 13 with regard to the notes of the recollection of the
- 14 events of May 28th, we've now looked at a few pages
- in which you recounted these events, while we
- 16 recounted them, has anything occurred to you that
- 17 were not in the notes that you recall recurring that
- 18 day?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 20 A I could probably clean them up a little.
- MR. WOLIN: He is not asking you
- 22 that.
- 23 A Yes.
- Q What is not in the notes that you recall
- 25 happening that day?

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- 1 MR. WOLIN: She already testified to
- 2 some things, didn't we already have
- 3 testimony about that --
- 4 MR. SMITH: I am asking about one
- 5 item.
- 6 MR. WOLIN: You are asking her what
- is in there, she already identified what
- 8 is in there.
- 9 MR. SMITH: Your client testified
- these are not verbatim recollections.
- I want to make sure that if we were going
- to use these as any sort of a
- recollections of that day, I know the full
- scope.
- 15 Q While we have been talking has anything
- 16 occurred to you that you recall happening that is
- 17 not in these notes?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 O What?
- 20 A I would have to go back over every page
- 21 and really look through it.
- Q Okay, you can do that.
- 23 A I believe the word I was trying to
- 24 remember was ostracizing the blank that I left out
- 25 was ostracizing.

55 1 MS. BEN-SOREK: For the record on page twenty-six? 3 THE WITNESS: Yes. 4 Α Ms. Higgins, instead of saying she on 5 page twenty-eight, it should be Ms. Higgins kept stressing that I should go to my sister's and rest 6 and forgot about everything, she is Ms. Higgins. 7 8 And I put the joke was that I was on the 9 ground floor, so I had mentioned to them that it was 10 a joke. Higgins asked if I would ever hurt myself, I said, no, of course not. 11 12 I said I live with my family, I would never hurt them like that. That was in addition to 13 14 my not hurting myself, you know what I am saying, it 15 is two different statements. 16 I said, no, of course not, I would never do that, I have a family that I love and I take care 17 of and I would never hurt them like that. 18 19 0 Anything else? 20 MR. WOLIN: Do you want to go through 21 the whole document? 22 MR. SMITH: No, just up until that 23 point.

After you have the phrase hurt them like 25 that, there is an arrow down, do you know what that arrow

70______

- 1 meant?
- 2 A No.
- On page thirty, about mid-way down this
- 4 is according to your notes, the police had arrived at
- 5 your sister's house.
- 6 You state they said the school dropped
- 7 the ball, because I left the school three hours
- 8 before and if they thought there was a danger, they
- 9 shouldn't have let me leave, never mind my chest
- 10 pains and migraine.
- 11 First of all, who was it that told you
- 12 the school dropped the ball?
- 13 A The police officer.
- 14 Q How many police officers arrived at your
- 15 house?
- 16 A Two.
- 17 Q Which officer made the statement?
- 18 A The male.
- 19 Q Was there one male and one female?
- 20 A Yes.
- Q Other than that statement, did you have
- 22 any discussion with him on where he elaborated on
- 23 how the school dropped the ball?
- A He said there was something very wrong in
- 25 what was going on here.

- 1 Q The phrase, drop the ball, is that a
- 2 phrase he used or --
- 3 A He used.
- 4 Q Was it the same officer that said it
- 5 seemed like someone was trying to harass you?
- 6 A The way I wrote it, yes.
- 7 Q Just going back to that phrase before
- 8 that, never mind about my chest pains and migraine,
- 9 what did you mean by that sentence?
- 10 A No one seemed concerned that I had chest
- 11 pains or anything physical. They called up and
- 12 wanted to put me in the psychiatric ward, I didn't
- 13 understand that.
- 14 Q At any point before you had left the
- 15 school building that day, had you told anyone that
- 16 physically you needed medical attention?
- 17 A I kept telling them that my chest, that I
- 18 had trouble breathing and my chest was hurting me
- 19 and I couldn't stand the pain in my head.
- 20 Q Did you ask anyone to call a doctor for
- 21 you?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q When your sister picked you up, did you
- 24 ask your sister to call a doctor for you?
- 25 A No.

Did anyone suggest you needed to go to

- 2 the hospital for these chest pains and physical
- 3 pains?

1

- 4 A I did not ask to go to the hospital at
- 5 all.
- 6 Q They didn't ask you and you didn't ask
- 7 them, correct?

Q

- 8 A No.
- 9 Q At the end of the page you refer, you
- 10 say, I spoke to the nurse in charge. After speaking
- 11 to me and listening to my story, told me to call my
- 12 union leader. This is the nurse in charge at the
- 13 hospital, correct?
- 14 A Correct.
- Do you remember the name of that nurse?
- 16 A No.
- 17 Q Can you describe the nurse physically?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q Was it a man or woman?
- 20 A Woman.
- 21 Q Taller or shorter than you?
- 22 A She was sitting down.
- 23 Q How long had you been in the hospital
- 24 when you had this conversation with her?
- 25 A I don't know.

- On the next page, page thirty-one about
- 2 four or five lines down, when I finally got to the
- 3 doctor she said she was sorry I had to go through
- 4 this for nothing, clearly someone was using this as
- 5 a punishment. She also said call the union and file
- 6 a lawsuit. Do you recall the name of that doctor?
- 7 A No.
- 8 Q Can you describe that doctor physically?
- 9 A She wore a turban.
- 10 Q When you spoke to that nurse, how long
- 11 had you been at the hospital when you spoke to that
- 12 nurse?
- 13 A I don't recall.
- 14 Q Had you been there more than an hour?
- 15 A About an hour.
- 16 Q When you spoke to this doctor, how long
- 17 had you been at the hospital?
- 18 A About four or five hours. No, about six,
- 19 seven, almost seven and a half hours.
- Q When you spoke to either the nurse or the
- 21 doctor in charge, you were accounting the events of
- 22 the day, correct?
- 23 A Yes, they asked me.
- Q Do you recall whether you told either of
- 25 them that you had told people in the room about this

- joke you had made about jumping out of the window?
- 2 A I don't recall.
- 3 Q Moving on to page thirty-two at the top
- 4 of this page, it states June 3rd, Tuesday, would
- 5 that indicate the date you made these notes or --
- 6 A I don't know.
- 7 Q The entry, asked Jeff about sick leave
- 8 papers online, because Sylvia isn't returning my
- 9 calls. Does that refresh your recollection if you
- 10 thought of this on June 3rd or just the date you
- 11 wrote it down?
- 12 A I don't know.
- 13 Q The sick leave papers you were going to
- 14 ask Jeff about, are those the medical leave papers
- 15 you had referenced earlier in those notes?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Is it fair to say at the point you wrote
- 18 this you were still considering taking some sort
- 19 of medical leave from work?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Had anyone at this point, do you recall
- 22 this was subsequent to your discharge from the
- 23 hospital, correct?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q At the time you were still considering

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- 1 taking that medical leave, what was the medical
- 2 basis you believe you had for taking that leave?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection, you keep
- 4 saying medical leave, she keeps saying
- 5 sick leave, I don't know if there is a
- 6 difference between medical leave and sick
- 7 leave.
- 8 Q Why did you think you needed to go out on
- 9 sick leave.
- 10 A I didn't think I could stand the stress
- anymore of what I was being subjected to at school.
- 12 Q Earlier in these notes you had referred
- 13 to asking a doctor --
- 14 A June 3rd I was already out of school.
- 15 Q It is your recollection now that these
- 16 notes refer to something you were thinking about on
- 17 June 3rd?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q On the first page of this document you,
- 20 this is page twenty-three, you refer to a call
- 21 hospital for records for doctors showing an existing
- 22 medical condition, do you see that?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q What was the existing medical condition
- 25 you were thinking about?

- 1 MR. WOLIN: Objection, asked and
- 2 answered, you asked her that already.
- 3 Q Days later when you were contemplating
- 4 asking Jeff, I assume that is Jeff Pullen, this is
- 5 on page thirty-two at the top?
- 6 A They had already taken me out of school.
- 7 MR. WOLIN: There is no question.
- 8 She is already out of school by then, that
- 9 is what she is trying to say.
- 10 A Dr. Wortham already released --
- 11 Q Then what sick leave papers online are
- 12 you referring to there?
- 13 A That is old, that is the next day after.
- 14 Q That is why I asked about the June 3rd
- 15 date, and you said you didn't know.
- 16 A I didn't know that had anything to do
- 17 with that, it is old.
- 18 Q Ask Jeff if sick leave papers are online,
- 19 this is referring to something you thought about on
- 20 May 29th? It was sometime earlier on June 3rd?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q At that time, I am just retreading a
- 23 little of what I asked about from that first page,
- 24 when you were thinking at this time about taking
- 25 some sort of leave from work, was it based upon an

- 1 existing medical condition?
- 2 A It was based on how I was feeling at that
- 3 time.
- 4 Q Is it fair to say at the time you were
- 5 feeling that you may not be able to actually go to
- 6 work?
- 7 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can
- answer.
- 9 A At that very day, yes.
- 10 Q Now the very next entry states, 9/13
- 11 right their doctor look at me, came, have with me my
- 12 doctor friend Jeff. Do you know what you meant by
- 13 that entry?
- 14 A Yes, that next day they sent me a paper
- 15 saying that I had to go for a 913. A 913 means I
- 16 have to be evaluated by the school psychiatrist in
- order to get my job back.
- I am allowed to take a friend with me or
- 19 someone with me, that is what Jeff said, that is why
- 20 the name Jeff is there.
- 21 Q The next entry, a big shake down on
- 22 Thursday this could all go away, getting rid of
- 23 bullies. What did you mean?
- 24 A Jeff had called and said that there was a
- lot going on at Roosevelt. That the people on the

- 1 board were not happy with Dr. Wortham and were not
- 2 happy with things going on in our school building.
- And they were considering getting rid of
- 4 Dr. Wortham and Mr. Braswell.
- 5 Q When you say getting rid of bullies, are
- 6 you referring to Dr. Wortham and Mr. Braswell?
- 7 A That is what he was referring to, yes.
- 8 Q At the time, did you consider Dr. Wortham
- 9 to be a bully?
- 10 A I was starting to believe that she was
- 11 involved.
- 12 Q Involved in what?
- 13 A In what was going on at the school.
- 14 Q What was going on at the school, what do
- 15 you mean by that?
- 16 A That Mr. Braswell wasn't the only one
- 17 causing the upsetment [SIC] at the school.
- 18 Q What do you mean by the upsetment at the
- 19 school?
- 20 A The overcrowded classrooms. The not
- 21 having the professional development and all those
- 22 things.
- 23 Q Overcrowded classroom and lack of
- 24 professional development, are these issues that
- other teachers were experiencing besides yourself?

#: 1179

- 1 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 2 A I don't know, I can only speak for
- 3 myself.
- 4 Q Have you ever spoken to other teachers,
- 5 other first grade teachers, for example, about those
- 6 issues.
- 7 A Other first grade teachers, yes.
- 8 Q Did they ever express to you they feel
- 9 they needed more professional development?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Did any other teachers ever express to
- 12 you that school had a problem because they have
- 13 overcrowded classes?
- 14 A Just the first grade teachers.
- 15 Q The other first grade teachers did?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Are they the same teachers you identified
- 18 for me?
- 19 A No, not that year.
- Q Who were the first grade teachers that
- 21 year?
- 22 A First grade teachers that year were
- 23 Ms. Y-E-D-I-N and Ms. B-E-N-O and Ms. Washington and
- 24 Ms. Gonzales.
- 25 Q Ms. Yedin, what was her race?

66 1 Α Jewish. 2 0 White?

Ά

3

- 4 Q Do you recall her age at that time?
- 5 Α She is my age.
- 0 How about Ms. Beno?

Yes.

- 7 Α Ms. Beno is Caucasian and a little bit
- 8 younger than me.
- 9 Q: Is she over forty?
- 1.0 Α Yes.
- 11 Q How about Washington?
- 12 Ms. Washington and Miss Gonzales are the Α
- bilingual class, so they weren't really involved in 13
- the same issues, she is young. 14
- 15 Q Her race?
- 16 Α Black.
- 17 And Ms. Gonzales? 0
- 18 Α Spanish, she is very young.
- 19 What happened to Ms. Yedin and Ms. Beno
- that they weren't teaching the first grade the 20
- following year? 21
- 22 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 23 Α Ms. Beno was teaching the following year,
- 2013, 2014. Ms. Yedin was moved to fourth grade. 24
- 2.5 And Ms. Washington was moved to fourth grade I think

- 1 also.
- 2 Q When you refer to getting rid of bullies,
- 3 you mentioned Dr. Wortham and Mr. Braswell, did you
- 4 consider Ms. Higgins to be a bully as well?
- 5 A You only asked me about what that
- 6 statement was, that is what I was answering to.
- 7 MR. WOLIN: I think she was referring
- 8 to a conversation that Mr. Pullen had
- 9 said.
- 10 Q Did Mr. Pullen tell you that they were
- 11 getting rid of the bullies?
- 12 A Yes.
- Q Who did he identify as the bullies they
- were getting rid of?
- 15 A I only wrote down what he said, that's
- 16 all I wrote.
- 17 Q You told me since then, how do you know
- 18 he was referring to Dr. Wortham and Mr. Braswell?
- 19 A I know it was Mr. Braswell, because that
- 20 is who our conversations were about, that was the
- 21 whole conversation.
- 22 Q I just want to make sure we are clear.
- 23 You told me a minute ago you wrote down what he
- 24 said?
- 25 A Right.

#: 1182

1 Q There is nothing in here that

- 2 specifically identifies Mr. Braswell or Dr. Wortham.
- 3 If they weren't written down here, do you still
- 4 recall that is who he told you about in that
- 5 conversation?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Did he mention any other administrators
- 8 at that time that were bullies, who might be going?
- 9 A He probably mentioned Ms. Higgins also.
- 10 Q Do you recall if he mentioned any
- 11 administrators from any other building in the
- 12 district?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q The Board of Education, apparently a big
- shake down is coming and the only three people they
- 16 mention is the three Defendants in this lawsuit?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 18 A The only three people he would talk to me
- 19 about would be the people that were involved with
- 20 me, I wasn't there to gossip.
- Q Why would he bring this up in the first
- 22 place?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 24 A Because we were in conversation almost
- 25 the whole summer.

#: 1183 - -

1 Q It then states, he already filed

- 2 yesterday against Braswell, talk to Wortham about
- 3 three hour delay, she had no knowledge, ha, ha.
- 4 What are you referring to there?
- 5 A He filed a grievance, that is what I told
- 6 you about before. Jeff talked to Wortham, she said
- 7 she had no knowledge of the 911 call that was
- 8 a three hour delay in them calling.
- 9 I wrote ha, ha, because she had to have
- 10 known, she is the superintendent.
- 11 Q Are you referring to the Dr. Wortham?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q How do you know she had to have knowledge
- of that?
- A Well, if you are the superintendent of
- 16 the school district you have to have knowledge. She
- was a very hands-on person.
- 18 Q Is it your understanding the decision to
- 19 call 911 was something that was clear with her
- 20 beforehand?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can
- answer.
- A Yes.
- Q Would anybody have been able to make that
- 25 call without clearing it with her beforehand, as far

#: 1184

1 as you know?

- 2 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 3 A That is not to my knowledge.
- 4 Q What do you mean that is not to your
- 5 knowledge?
- 6 A How would I know that?
- 7 Q That is my question. Going down, Joy
- 8 came in and said parenthetically as if everybody
- 9 knew about the 911 call, that she didn't make the
- 10 call.
- 11 When she tried to call Lynn and tell her
- 12 about the police coming, Braswell said put the phone
- down and don't give her a heads up. Who is Joy?
- 14 A Joy Emanuel she was the social worker at
- 15 our school, she got transferred.
- 16 Q Was she present in the nurse's office on
- 17 May 28th?
- 18 A No, she was not.
- 19 Q Was she someone you had a relationship
- 20 with?
- 21 A She was the social worker at the school,
- 22 yes, I had a lot of problem children, so, yes, I saw
- 23 her frequently.
- Q When it says, Joy came in and said, where
- 25 was she when you had this conversation?

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	1	A In my classroom.
	2	Q This happened when you were
	3	A No, when I came back.
	4	Q When was it that you came back?
	5	A In September I guess.
	6	Q The notation in the margin, Tuesday,
	7	June 3rd, that has nothing to do
	8	A I don't think so, no.
	9	Q When she came into your classroom that
	10	day in September, had you asked to come in to
	11	discuss this issue?
	12	A No.
	13	Q Can you explain a little more on exactly
	14	what you mean here, what exactly did she come in and
	15	say?
	16	A She came in and told me that, she came in
	17	and I had people in my classroom, so it wasn't like
	18	she, she came in openly and wasn't like speaking to
	19	me softly.
	20	She came in like it was common knowledge
	21	that everybody knew the 911 phone call was made and
	22	the whole school talking about it. She said you
	23	know that I didn't make that call, the 911 call.
	24	She said, but I did try and call your
	25	sister and give her a heads up when I heard that
1		

- 1 they did that. I was trying to call to tell you
- 2 that the police were coming.
- 3 Braswell heard me and said, put down the
- 4 phone, don't give her the heads up.
- 5 Q This occurred in your classroom sometime
- 6 in the following September, correct?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q You said there were other people in your
- 9 room?
- 10 A Yes, I don't recall who they were.
- 11 Q Was it during the school day?
- 12 A Yes.
- Q Were there students in the room?
- 14 A No, it was in the morning.
- 15 Q That would be other teachers?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Other first grade teachers?
- 18 A Probably.
- 19 Q She came in and told you everyone in
- 20 September was taking about the 911 call that had
- 21 been made in May?
- 22 A No, no, I said she acted like everyone
- 23 knew about it, because she was saying it loudly,
- 24 like it was a common known thing.
- 25 Q Did you ever have any conversations with

1 anyone else that was present in the nurse's office

- on May 28th about the call to 911?
- 3 A No. Well, my friend Nanette.
- 4 Q When did you talk to Nanette about this?
- 5 A I talk to her all summer long.
- 6 Q She was in the room on May 28th, correct?
- 7 A She was in the room on May 28th, yes.
- 8 Q When you talked to her about what had
- 9 occurred in the room, did you ask her about who had
- 10 made the call to 911?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q What did you talk about with regard to
- 13 May 28th?
- 14 A No, just how upset I was, it was just
- 15 girl talk, we're friends.
- 16 Q Did you ever ask Ms. Higgins about the
- 17 call to 911?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q Did you ever ask Ms. Swinkin about the
- 20 call to 911?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q Did you ask the nurse about the call to
- 23 911?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q Did you speak to any of those individuals

- 1 about the events of May 28th?
- 2 A The other day I talked to the nurse, the
- 3 nurse asked me some questions, other than that, no.
- 4 Q The other day just recently?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q What questions did she ask you?
- 7 A She just asked me if I was continuing
- 8 with the nonsense.
- 9 Q What do you mean nonsense?
- 10 A This, the lawsuit, she thought I should
- 11 give it up.
- 12 Q Where were you when you had this
- 13 conversation?
- 14 A In my classroom doorway.
- 15 Q What is the nurse's name?
- 16 A Ms. Chester.
- 17 Q Was anyone else present when you had this
- 18 conversation?
- 19 A No.
- Q Was that the first time you and Ms.
- 21 Chester spoke about the lawsuit?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Have you had any other conversations with
- 24 any other employees in the district about your
- 25 lawsuit?

- 1 A Ms. Swinkin came to me when I first came
- 2 back and she said, you know that I don't want to be
- 3 involved in any of this and you know that, I forgot
- 4 how she said it. They wanted her to write down
- 5 something that she didn't want to write down, but
- 6 she is not tenured, so they forced her to sign a
- 7 paper she wasn't happy with.
- 8 She came and gave me a hug and said you
- 9 know I didn't want to do that.
- 10 Q What paper are you referring to that she
- 11 wasn't happy with?
- 12 A Some statement that she had to make.
- 13 Q She told you that the statement was
- 14 false?
- 15 A That, you know, it wasn't true, that she
- 16 knew I didn't do anything.
- 17 Q She told you at some point that it was a
- 18 false statement?
- 19 A Yes.
- Q Where were you when she told you?
- 21 A In my classroom.
- Q Was anyone else present?
- 23 A No.
- Q Was this in September of the following
- 25 school year?

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1 A Yeah.

- 2 Q Did she tell you why she had signed a
- 3 false statement?
- 4 A They were pressuring her.
- 5 Q Who is they?
- 6 A She didn't say, I assume Braswell.
- 7 Q On page thirty-three, the entry e-mailed
- 8 emergency discharge papers. Do you know what that
- 9 is referring to?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q There has been an entry that looks like
- 12 it has been covered up, do you know what that said?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q Do you know why you would have crossed
- 15 out an entry in your notes?
- 16 A It must have been nothing. It wasn't
- 17 anything that was important, I see Monday there.
- 18 Q The rest of the page, am I just correct,
- 19 it looks like there is writing there, but is that
- 20 just an imprint from the page before? Was there
- 21 writing there that just isn't legible, do you know?
- 22 A No, I don't know.
- Q Do you know if in the original notes
- 24 there is additional writing on that page that is
- 25 legible?

- 1 A This was my granddaughter's notebook --
- MR. WOLIN: He asked you a question.
- 3 A I don't know.
- 4 Q Do you still have the original notes?
- 5 A I don't have, no.
- 6 Q Did you give your original notes to your
- 7 Counsel?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 On the next page, page thirty-four, at
- 10 the bottom of the page there is an entry, it states
- 11 6:30 p.m., do you see that?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Would that indicate the time of this
- 14 conversation?
- 15 A That seems possible.
- 16 Q There is an entry in the margin ahead of
- 17 that, Monday June 9th. Would that refer to the date
- 18 you had these conversations?
- 19 A That looks like, called Sylvia, Monday
- 20 June 9th call Sylvia.
- 21 Q On this page the Monday June 9th refers
- 22 to the entry?
- 23 A They were my notes, they were rambling, I
- 24 don't know.
- 25 Q In that entry, beside the notation 6:30,

- 1 you state you are quoting a conversation you had
- 2 with Jeff Pullen.
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q You state, he told Braswell I didn't even
- 5 want to go for the grievance, but he pushed it and
- 6 thought it was a good idea. Do you recall not even
- 7 wanting to go for the grievance?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Why did you not want to file a grievance?
- 10 A I am the type of person that likes to get
- 11 along with everybody. I don't like to cause
- 12 trouble. I like to go in and do my job and be
- 13 friends with everybody.
- This whole episode is very, very
- 15 stressful. It is not my personality to do this. I
- 16 didn't want to cause any more problems. I just
- 17 didn't want this to happen to anyone else. This
- 18 whole thing should never have happened.
- For him to say, well we have another
- 20 thing on him. I didn't think it was necessary, but
- 21 he said it is necessary, because he did something
- 22 else wrong and we don't want that to happen to
- 23 somebody else either.
- That is my personality, I don't want all
- 25 of this. I am not trying to be mean or evil. This

- 1 lawsuit has to do with not letting anybody else
- 2 have to go through what I went through.
- 3 Q When Mr. Pullen said he did something
- 4 wrong to you, what was he referring to?
- 5 A He humiliated me in front of my peers.
- 6 Q By that you mean the statement he made at
- 7 the meeting on May 28th?
- 8 A Right, right.
- 9 Q Did the grievance have anything to do
- 10 with the call to 911 or anything that came after
- 11 that?
- 12 A No, no, as far as I know.
- 13 Q Do you know what the outcome of that
- 14 grievance was?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Do you know the outcome today?
- 17 A No, nobody told me anything.
- 18 Q Were you ever asked to give a statement
- 19 with regard to that grievance?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q On page thirty-four going into
- 22 thirty-five, it looks like you are quoting what
- 23 Mr. Pullen is quoting his conversation with
- 24 Mr. Braswell.
- Just so we have the full record I will

- 1 read, Braswell said he never said anything to me
- 2 that would cause me to be upset and that I came into
- 3 the meeting upset.
- 4 He said he would never say I did not care
- 5 about children. Jeff said that was strange, since
- 6 fifteen other people had the same story as me and
- 7 his story was the only different one. Do you know
- 8 the fifteen people Jeff was referring to?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q I believe you testified earlier that
- 11 there was six people in that meeting that morning,
- 12 correct?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q So the fifteen is not accurate, correct?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Did you recall if you corrected Jeff at
- 17 that time and told him there was no way there could
- 18 have been fifteen witnesses?
- 19 A No, I probably just wrote fifteen.
- MR. WOLIN: I don't think, let me
- object. I don't think that the
- 22 attribution here is that there were
- fifteen other people particularly in that
- 24 meeting.
- Q What do you think this means?

- 1 MR. WOLIN: Objection, we are
- 2 speculating. He doesn't say there were
- 3 people in that meeting, we are
- 4 speculating.
- 5 Q According to your notes, Jeff told you
- 6 that he thought Mr. Braswell's comment was strange,
- 7 since fifteen other people had the same story as
- 8 you, that's what you wrote, correct?
- 9 A Right.
- 10 Q Do you know what he meant by that?
- 11 A I'm not sure.
- 12 Q The only thing he quotes above is what
- 13 happened at the meeting, correct?
- A As far as the meeting goes, no, there
- 15 wasn't fifteen people at the meeting.
- 16 Q Do you recall your conversation with Jeff
- 17 at that time, when he told you that there were
- 18 fifteen other people with the same story, do you
- 19 recall if you ever corrected him, because you knew
- there couldn't have been fifteen other witnesses?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q In the midst, in the context of filing a
- 24 grievance and putting together this case, it would
- 25 have been important for you to be accurate about the

#: 1196

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1
     number of witnesses?
                MR. WOLIN: Objection.
 3
                Again, this is not a statement I gave to
     the Courts.
 4
 5
                MR. WOLIN: All of your questions are
          assuming something that we don't know,
 7
          which is speculation.
                That Jeff is saying there were
 8
 9
          fifteen people at the meeting, it doesn't
10
          say that, it doesn't say there were
11
          fifteen people at the meeting.
12
                The premise of all of these questions
13
          is so far afield.
14
                MR. SMITH: No, it is not actually,
15
          because the notes are her account of a
16
          conversation she had with someone.
17
                I am asking her about the
18
          conversation, the notes are a reflection
19
          of that conversation.
20
                MR. WOLIN: You are assuming that
21
          by him saying fifteen people, there were
22
          fifteen people at the meeting, it doesn't
23
          say that.
24
          Q
                Do you recall when he said fifteen people
25
     what he meant by that?
```

- 1 A I don't remember.
- 2 Q In the middle of that page there is a
- 3 statement, he said he was really worried about me,
- 4 he cares about all of his teachers and that
- 5 statement there is a box drawn around that.
- 6 Do you recall why you draw a box around
- 7 that statement?
- 8 A Yes, because I felt that was a very
- 9 untrue statement.
- 10 Q This is referring to Braswell, correct?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q The next statement says, Jeff said he is
- 13 very paranoid, he thinks the teachers are out to get
- 14 him. Later on Jeff said they could have been
- 15 talking about him being a psycho?
- 16 A Yes.
- Q Where were you when you had this
- 18 conversation when he referred to Mr. Braswell as
- 19 paranoid and psycho?
- 20 A Where was I?
- Q Was this a phone conversation?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Was anyone else on the phone during this
- 24 conversation?
- 25 A No.

1 MR. WOLIN: As far as she knows.

- 2 Q As far as you know?
- 3 A No.
- 4 Q Did you agree with Mr. Pullen that Mr.
- 5 Braswell is paranoid and psycho or do you agree with
- 6 that assessment?
- 7 A I have no, I think he is mean.
- 8 Q Do you think he is mean generally to
- 9 teachers?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 11 A I think he has his own agenda.
- 12 Q What is that agenda?
- 13 A I don't know.
- 14 Q During the school year where you felt he
- 15 was bullying you, did you feel he was bullying you
- 16 because of that agenda?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Did he bully other teachers because of
- 19 that agenda?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 21 A I don't know.
- 22 Q Did you ever speak to any other teachers
- 23 who also voiced concerns about the way he acted?
- 24 A Just the first grade team.
- 25 Q Do you normally speak to any other

. .

- 1 teachers outside of the first grade team about
- 2 issues at work?
- A I try not to, I try and stay in my room
- 4 and do the best job I can for my kids.
- 5 Q Since September 2014, when I first asked
- 6 you questions, have there been any other occasions
- 7 when you believe Mr. Braswell has bullied you?
- 8 A No.
- 9 MR. WOLIN: Objection, I think you
- 10 asked that already.
- 11 MR. SMITH: No, I asked about
- discrimination, now I am asking about
- 13 bullying in general.
- 14 Q Have there been any occasions since
- 15 September 2014 when you believe Ms. Higgins has
- 16 bullied you?
- 17 A No.
- Do you believe that during the 2013, 2014
- 19 school year Ms. Higgins was also bullying you?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Do you believe she was also bullying you
- 22 as part of Mr. Braswell's agenda?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 Q But you don't know what that agenda was?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.

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- 1 A No.
- 2 On page thirty-six towards the bottom of
- 3 the page there is an entry, lawyer called said to
- 4 call school and say that I can't make appointment
- 5 for Thursday, just got paper late last night.
- 6 Called Patty Duresco (phonetic) left message. Do
- 7 you recall what this is referring to?
- 8 A I had called him to tell him that I had
- 9 just gotten papers from the school, because they
- 10 wanted me to go to the psychiatrist out in Port Jeff
- 11 and I had just gotten them.
- He told me to call the school and to tell
- 13 them, you know, that I had gotten it so late.
- 14 Q Is that what you told the school?
- 15 A I told them that I couldn't make it. I
- 16 was really upset about going to this, I thought I
- 17 was losing my job. I thought they were trying to
- 18 get rid of me.
- I told them that, is this the first one,
- 20 I had an appointment. It said if you had an
- 21 appointment or something you could change it.
- I said I had an appointment, but really I
- 23 needed my daughter make an appointment, so she could
- 24 meet with me and go with me.
- 25 Q The next line, it's crazy Dr. Solomon is

- 1 school district's henchman. When you say here, you
- 2 are referring to your attorney, correct?
- 3 A Probably, yes.
- 4 Q Do you recall what you understood that to
- 5 mean, Dr. Solomon is the school district's henchman?
- 6 A Usually when they want to get rid of
- 7 teachers, they send them out to him. He is usually
- 8 the one who tell people, you know, they find
- 9 something wrong with the teacher and you are usually
- 10 out.
- 11 Q At some point you did have an appointment
- 12 with Dr. Solomon, correct?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q Would it be fair to say that when you
- 15 went to that appointment, your understanding was
- 16 that if you said the wrong thing your job might be
- 17 in jeopardy?
- 18 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 19 A No, I really thought my job was probably
- 20 going to be terminated, because that is what that
- 21 meeting was about.
- Q Who told you that is what that meeting is
- 23 about?
- 24 A It said on the paper, if you are not past
- 25 by this paper, what was the whole process about.

- 1 Q Would it be fair to say when you went to
- 2 that examination with Dr. Solomon, you were
- 3 concerned about keeping your job?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 MR. SMITH: Nothing further.
- 6 EXAMINATION BY LIORA M. BEN-SOREK, ESQ.:
- 7 Q Good afternoon, Ms. McCarthy. My name is
- 8 Liora Ben-Sorek, I am a Deputy County Attorney. We
- 9 met once before when I took your examination
- 10 pursuant to the general municipal law 50H. Do you
- 11 recall that?
- 12 A I do.
- 13 Q I gave you a set of instructions then at
- 14 the deposition and I will just briefly go through
- 15 them. They are pretty much the same as what
- 16 Mr. Smith had given you earlier.
- 17 I will ask you a series of questions
- 18 related to the lawsuit you brought against the
- 19 County of Nassau, Nassau County Police Department,
- 20 Police Officer Joseph Stassi, Officer Monique
- 21 Amodeo, and the Advance Medical Technician, Matthew
- 22 Field.
- 23 If at any time you don't understand or
- 24 you can't hear my question, please tell me, I can
- 25 rephrase it or speak louder. If you answer my

- 1 question, I will presume you understand it.
- 2 A Okay.
- 3 Q Just as with Mr. Smith, there are certain
- 4 rules that we have to abide by for the court
- 5 reporter. We have to wait for each other to finish
- 6 our questions and our answers before we speak.
- 7 I like it reading as a conversation or
- 8 reading play and you are reading the script and you
- 9 see dot, dot, dot and the next person tries to
- 10 figure it out. It winds up as a messy transcript if
- 11 we don't allow each other to complete our statement.
- 12 The court reporter is not allowed to
- interpret what a nod of a head or gesture is, so you
- 14 have to articulate all of your responses, okay?
- 15 A Okay.
- 16 Q We have been here for a couple of hours,
- 17 is there any medication that you need to take or
- 18 haven't taken today that you are required to take?
- 19 A No.
- 20 Q Referring to Exhibit A, Defendant's
- 21 Exhibit A, I believe we finished off somewhere
- 22 around page thirty-six. I will ask you to go back,
- 23 for instance, to page thirty-four.
- 24 A Okay.
- Q When you see page thirty-four in the

- 1 left-hand margin there are dates and remarks to the
- 2 right of that. That is pretty much going through to
- 3 the end of the document at page thirty-nine.
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q As you sit here today, is it your
- 6 recollection that the dates in the left-hand margin
- 7 refer to the entry that is to the right?
- 8 A I believe I started to at the end of this
- 9 to write the dates in.
- 10 Q The document itself on pages twenty-three
- 11 through thirty-nine would that have been in
- 12 chronological order?
- For instance, the entries pages
- 14 twenty-three to thirty-three, to the extent they may
- or may not have dated entries, would all of that
- 16 information be occurring prior to June 6th, which
- is the date at the top of page thirty-four?
- 18 A I would think so. I wouldn't want to
- 19 swear to it, but I would say, yes, probably.
- 20 Q When you wrote down this journal of
- 21 sorts, did you skip around pages or you wrote page
- 22 after page in the order that they appeared in the
- 23 blank pages in the book?
- 24 A I believe I wrote in the blank pages in
- 25 the book, yes.

* **

- 1 O The version of the document that you
- 2 turned over to your attorney, was that still bound
- 3 in the book or pages had been removed?
- 4 A They was bound in the book.
- 5 O You referred within the context of
- 6 Exhibit A, you referred to grievances that were
- 7 filed against the school Defendants.
- 8 In Exhibit A there was mention that Jeff
- 9 Pullen had filed a grievance regarding Mr. Braswell?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Were their grievances filed on your
- 12 behalf against any other civil officials in
- 13 connection with incident of May 28, 2014?
- 14 A Not that I know of.
- 15 Q Did the grievances filed against
- 16 Mr. Braswell mention in any manner anything having
- 17 to do with the call to the police?
- 18 A Not that I know of.
- 19 Q Were any grievance filed by you or on
- 20 your behalf against school officials in connection
- 21 specifically with the fact that the police were
- 22 called or the timing of when the police were called?
- 23 A Not that I know of.
- 24 Q Other than in the context of a formal
- 25 grievance and in the context of the civil

- 1 litigation, was there any other manner in which you
- 2 could have filed a complaint or a letter related to
- 3 the events of May 28, 2014?
- 4 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can answer
- 5 it.
- 6 A I don't know.
- 7 Q Let me rephrase. In this action you
- 8 filed a Notice of Claim?
- 9 A Right.
- 10 Q The Notice of Claim was putting the
- 11 school district and the County on Notice about your
- 12 intentions of filing a lawsuit?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q There were separate Notices of claim for
- 15 the school district and the County?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q You filed a lawsuit which named both the
- 18 school district and the County, correct?
- 19 A Yes.
- 21 Mr. Braswell?
- 22 A Yes.
- Q Was there any formal or informal
- 24 complaint that you filed or had filed on your behalf
- 25 whether that be the school board or to the principal

- 1 or to anyone?
- 2 Α No.
- 3 MR. WOLIN: Off the record.
- (Whereupon, a discussion was held off
- 5 the record.)
- 6 MR. WOLIN: By Counsel, as is
- 7 indicated on page three and four of the
- Verified Complaint, there was a charge of
- discrimination filed with the Equal
- Employment Opportunity Commission against 10
- 11 the District Defendants, which I believe
- 12 is responsive to the question.
- 13 Q Do you recall that filing with the EEO
- 14 your attorney just referred to?
- 15 Д Yes.
- As you sit here today, do you know what 16
- 17 the outcome of that filing was?
- 18 Α No.
- 19 That filing as stated by your attorney Q
- related to a claim of discrimination, correct? 2.0
- 21 Α Yes.
- 22 Did you review that filing before it was
- 23 sent to the EEO?
- 24 Α Yes.
- 25 To your recollection was there any 0

- 1 mention of the call to the police or the timing of
- 2 the call to the police?
- 3 A I don't recall.
- 4 Q At the time you were at the nurse's
- 5 office on May 28th did you ever make a statement to
- 6 the effect your headache was so bad it felt like you
- 7 were dying or you rather die?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q There came a time on May 28, 2014 that
- 10 you left the school, correct?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q You were picked up by your sister?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q And her boyfriend was in the car with
- 15 her?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Did you have a conversation about what
- 18 had transpired at the school during the car ride?
- 19 A Yes.
- 21 the conversation you had with your sister at the
- 22 time?
- 23 A It wasn't with my sister, it was with my
- 24 sister's boyfriend. My sister drove my car home, I
- 25 drove with him.

- 1 Q Do you recall what the sum and substance
- of the conversation you had with Mr. Drinkwater?
- 3 A I believe I was crying said they were
- 4 being mean to me and my head hurt really bad.
- 5 Q Do you recall what, if anything, that
- 6 Mr. Drinkwater stated to you?
- 7 A He told me to calm down and not to cry.
- 8 Q Did you ask him to take you to a doctor
- 9 or to a hospital?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q Did he offer to take you to a doctor or a
- 12 hospital?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q I don't recall if Mr. Smith had asked you
- 15 this, had there ever been a time you had a migraine
- 16 that required you to leave work?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Was there ever a time that you left the
- 19 school ill and you had to be picked up by someone
- 20 prior to May 28, 2014?
- 21 A I don't think I was ever picked up by
- 22 anyone.
- 23 Q Is it fair to say that it was an unusual
- 24 occurrence for you to be picked up or that the
- 25 school would have to call someone to bring you home?

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1 A Yes.

- 2 Q It would be unusual for you to leave the
- 3 school in the middle of the day?
- 4 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can answer
- 5 it.
- A I had left on occasion if I was sick, but
- 7 it is unusual, yes.
- 8 Q On the other occasions you left when you
- 9 were sick, was that with a headache or something
- 10 else?
- 11 A Something else.
- 12 Q Had you ever left the school early prior
- 13 to May 28, 2014 due to stress related or anxiety
- 14 related conditions?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Had you ever left the school due to
- anything related to your depression you have been
- 18 treated for?
- 19 A No.
- 20 Q Early on in your testimony you were asked
- 21 which medications you had been prescribed, you
- 22 mentioned Topamax, Zoloft, Lipitor and Fiorinal,
- 23 correct?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q You later testified based on Exhibit A

I		
		97
1	that you	also had Xanax?
2	A	Yes.
3	Q	You had Xanax in your pocketbook as well?
4	A	Yes.
5	Q	Do you recall what the dosage level
6	A	Point twenty-five.
7	Q	Is that milligrams?
8	A	I don't know, the smallest amount you can
9	take.	
10	Q	On May 28th how many Xanax did you take?
11	A	One.
12	Q	Other than Xanax was there any other
13	medication	n that was prescribed to you that you would
14	take on a	regular basis on May 28, 2014?
15	А	The allergy medicine, it's got a real
16	long name	I never remember it.
17	Q	How often do you take that?
18	A	Once a day.
19	Q	Do you still take that medication?
20	A	Yes.
21	Q	Same medication?
22	А	Yes.
23	Q	Has there been any change in the dosage?
24	A	No.
25	Q	Is it taken daily?
		8

- 1 A Yes.
- 3 you take it?
- 4 A It is seasonal.
- 5 Q I will leave a line in the transcript you
- 6 can fill it in.
- 7 (INSERT)
- 8 MR. WOLIN: That is fine.
- 9 Q That is taken regularly or as needed?
- 10 A Regularly.
- 11 Q Is there any medication that was
- 12 prescribed to you as of May 28, 2014 other than the
- 13 Fiorinal and the Xanax that you would take on an as
- 14 needed basis?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Did there come a time that you had a
- 17 conversation with your sister regarding the events
- 18 of May 28, 2014 at the school?
- 19 A When I got to her house.
- 21 A My sister probably asked me what
- 22 happened.
- 23 Q Do you recall the sum and substance of
- 24 what you had said?
- 25 A Basically that Mr. Braswell had accused

- 1 me of not loving my children, I had got upset. It
- 2 started with a migraine, I wanted to come home and
- 3 feel better.
- 4 Q At the time you arrived at your sister's
- 5 home do you recall approximately what time of day it
- 6 was?
- 7 A It was probably ten-thirty.
- 8 Q By the time you arrived at your sister's
- 9 home do you recall the degree in which your migraine
- 10 headache was effecting you?
- 11 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can
- 12 answer.
- 13 A It was still there.
- 14 Q With respect to the chest pains that you
- 15 testified about, were you still experiencing them by
- 16 the time you got to your sister's home?
- 17 A No, they were better.
- 18 Q Did there come a time that you expressed
- 19 to your sister that Ms. Higgins had asked whether
- 20 you had ever tried to hurt yourself?
- 21 A I don't recall.
- Q When Ms. Higgins had asked you that
- 23 question, did you inquire why she would even ask
- 24 such a thing or what the basis was?
- 25 A I remember being a little indignant,

- 1 like, no.
- 2 Did you inquire what the basis for her
- 3 remark was?
- Α 4 No.
- 5 Was her remark or her question did it 0
- 6 appear to you that her question was in response to
- 7 your statement about being so stressed you would
- 8 jump out a window?
- 9 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 10 No, I think people would, if anybody is
- 11 upset, they could ask something like that. I don't
- 12 know, I really don't know.
- 13 Do you recall if Ms. Higgins' statement
- 14 was made just after you had made that remark?
- 15 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 16 Α Not sure.
- 17 There came a time that police officers 0
- 18 responded to your sister's home?
- 19 Α Yes.
- 20 Do you recall who those police officers
- 21 were?
- 22 It was a male and a female.
- If I mentioned the names, Stassi and 23 Q
- 24 Amodeo, does that refresh your recollection?
- 25 Α It does now.

101 1 Do you recall which was Stassi and which 0 2 was Amodeo? 3 Α Stassi was the male and Amodeo was the 4 female. 5 0 Who answered the door? 6 Α My sister. 7 Q Did you hear any colloguy between your 8 sister and the police officers? 9 А No. 10 How did you become aware that the police were at the door? 11 12 Α I was in the room next to the door and my 13 sister yelled, Susan, the cops are here. 14 How did you know the cops were there for 15 you? 16 I didn't, she said they came in and they Α 17 said Roosevelt School called and said we had to come 18 and pick you up. 19 Did they say that to you or your sister? 20 Well, we were both standing together in 21 the kitchen. 2.2 Can you give me a description of the

- 23 layout, the police came to the front door?
- 24 Α The front door, the stairs going up, a
- 25 landing and a kitchen. (Indicating)

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1	Q Is it like a split level of sorts?	
2	A Yes.	
3	Q Your sister went to open the door?	
4	A Yes.	
5	Q Were you in the kitchen or someplace	
6	else?	
7	A I was in the cat room.	
8	Q The cat room is where in relation to the	
9	door?	
10	A It is next to the door, the kitchen is up	
11	the stairs.	
12	Q What precipitated you to leave the cat	
13	room when the police arrived?	
14	A My sister said the police were here, I	
15	guess she invited them up the stairs. My sister	
16	has, my sister is rescue person. My sister had a	
17	rescue pit bull upstairs, which they were playing	
18	with him in the room, so I came out of the room.	
19	Q When you say they were playing with him?	
20	A The two police officers were playing with	
21	the dog.	
22	Q What made you realize or believe that the	
23	police were there to speak with you, was it that you	
24	overheard	
25	A When I came out, they said Roosevelt had	

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1 called.

2 Q You came out of the room before the

3 police officers mentioned they were there from

4 Roosevelt?

5 A I believe so.

6 Q Did one officer speak or take the lead?

7 A Yes, the male.

8 Q When he made that remark that Roosevelt

9 sent them, who responded, you or your sister?

10 A I believe I did.

11 Q Let me start with, what, if any,

12 conversation did your sister have with the police?

MR. WOLIN: At any time during the

14 entire encounter?

15 Q Let's start with, what, if any, colloquy

16 did your sister have with the police when they

17 arrived at first other than letting them in the

18 house?

19 A I don't really know, I know what I said.

20 Q Did you observe any conversation between

21 your sister and the officers between the time they

22 arrived and the time you left the home?

23 A I know she wanted to come with me and she

24 was very upset they were taking me. I don't know

25 specifically what she said.

- 1 Q When you say she was upset, did she speak
- 2 with you or the officers or someone else?
- 3 A I think she was just saying
- 4 nonspecifically I am coming with you.
- 5 Q Did anyone tell her that she couldn't?
- 6 A They said you can't go with her. I said,
- 7 no, Lynn, you stay here, don't get upset I will
- 8 straighten this out.
- 9 Q When the police said they were sent there
- 10 from the school district, what, if any,
- 11 communications went back and forth between you and
- 12 the officers occurred?
- 13 A I said that is ridiculous, why would they
- 14 send an ambulance.
- 15 Q Was the ambulance there at that time?
- 16 A No, I'm sorry, I said why would they send
- 17 the police.
- 18 Q What did they respond?
- 19 A They said there was a 911 call that I was
- 20 going to hurt myself or someone else. No, I was a
- 21 threat to myself or someone else.
- 22 Q Did you make any further inquiry?
- 23 A I got really upset at that point. I said
- I have a migraine, I said I need to be resting not
- 25 being more agitated. I was just starting to feel

- 1 better and that was hours ago.
- 2 He looked at the sheet, his clipboard and
- 3 he said something is not right here, that was over
- 4 three hours ago.
- 5 Q At any time did the officers ask you
- 6 questions about, from your perspective, what
- 7 transpired at the school?
- 8 A I don't believe so.
- 9 Q At any time did the officers ask you what
- 10 you may have said to anyone at the school?
- 11 A I don't believe so.
- 12 Q Did the officers indicate who called
- 13 them, who made the phone call?
- 14 A I believe I asked, I said who would do
- 15 such a thing. They said the name on here is Edith
- 16 Higgins.
- 17 Q Did you have any further conversation
- 18 about what Ms. Higgins told the police specifically?
- 19 A I said she was the one who told me to go
- 20 to my sister's house to relax. I said why, if she
- 21 was the one who told me to go to my sister's house
- 22 to relax, why she would call the police three hours
- 23 later, it doesn't make sense.
- 24 Q As you sit here today, did you come to
- 25 learn the time line of events that had taken place

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- 1 to lead to the phone call?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 3 A No.
- 4 Q Did any of the officers provide you with
- 5 more specifics with what the allegations were, other
- 6 than saying they got a call that you were a threat
- 7 to yourself or others?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q At any time did you come to a realization
- 10 that it could have to do with the remark of jumping
- out of the window that Ms. Higgins witnessed?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q Did Officer Stassi ask you whether or not
- 15 you intended to hurt yourself?
- 16 A I said to him, aren't you supposed to be
- 17 able to assess a situation, if you come into a
- 18 situation, you can see clearly I am not a threat to
- 19 myself, this is when they were telling me I had to
- 20 go.
- I said you are going to take me against
- 22 my will, clearly I have a migraine, I am here with
- 23 my sister. He said things happen in other places
- 24 where people are not what they seem.
- I said I am telling you there is nothing

- 1 wrong with me and that is when he said we have to
- 2 take you to the psychiatric unit. I said this is
- 3 really getting crazy.
- 4 Q Did you have any conception or come to
- 5 any conclusion as to why the officers were taking
- 6 you to the psychiatric unit as opposed to a medical
- 7 unit at the hospital?
- 8 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 9 A No. That didn't make any sense to me.
- 10 He said to me himself he didn't understand why.
- 11 Q Did you have any communication with the
- 12 female officer?
- 13 A She was very quiet.
- 14 Q Did she ask any questions of you?
- 15 A I was in my sister's nightgown and she
- 16 wanted to follow me in and have me change in front
- 17 of her. I was not happy about that.
- 18 Q Did you learn that was for safety
- 19 reasons?
- 20 A Yes, and I was objecting to it.
- 21 Q At any time did you form an opinion or
- 22 believe that having you sent to the hospital was --
- 23 let me rephrase that.
- Did you have a belief that the school was
- 25 trying to intimidate you or provide cause for

- 1 perhaps some sort of personnel action?
- 2 Objection. MR. WOLIN:
- At first I couldn't figure out what, as 3 Α
- it worn on I figured they were out, I don't know, 4
- 5 something was wrong. I had no idea why they would
- 6 do that to me.
- 0 Did you form an opinion or belief that
- 8 the school was out to get you in some way?
- 9 MR. WOLIN: At that time?
- 10 0 On that day?
- 11 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 12 Α On that day I was so confused I didn't
- 13 know.
- 14 When you arrived at the hospital, did any
- 15 of the medical staff, nurses, physician's assist,
- 16 doctors, did they make any inquiry into any specifics
- of what transpired in the school, in other words, 17
- 18 any specific conversations?
- 19 I was there quite a while. It was very,
- 20 very crowded that day, I was standing at a desk,
- 2.1 because there was no seats.
- 22 I carried on a conversation with the
- 23 nurse at the desk. She said why are you here, I
- 24 told her what happened in the school, she said you
- 25 shouldn't be here.

109 1 First of all, why didn't they address 2 vour physical needs, why were they so quick to do 3 She went on to say about the time frame. said you should call your union. She said it was 4 5 ridiculous that they rushed to do this, we are so 6 crowded here, we have all these patients who really 7 need help. 8 That is what the other doctor that examined he said the same exact thing. This is 9 10 punishment the schools do, we've seen it before. We 11 are very sorry you had to suffer this unneeded 12 embarrassment and harassment. 13 Prior to being examined at the hospital 14 did anyone tell you the purpose of the psychiatric 15 evaluation? 16 Α No. 17 MS. BEN-SOREK: It is Plaintiff's 18 Response to County's Defendants 19 interrogatories notarized and verified on 20 October 12, 2015. 21 Ms. McCarthy, I am showing you this, on 22 page four or five of that document. 23 MR. WOLIN: You mean the last page

516-485-2222

24

25

Correct.

and the verification page?

MS. BEN-SOREK:

110 1 0 There is a name Susan McCarthy; is that 2 your signature? 3 Α Yes. 0 Do you recall signing this document? Α Yes. 6 When you signed it, you reviewed it and checked for its accuracy? 8 Α Yes. You were satisfied it was accurate and you signed it? 10 11 Α Yes. 12 Turn to page three, question four. asks state with specificity the nature and type of 13 14 injury alleged to have been sustained by the Plaintiff as a result of the facts alleged in the 15 16 Complaint. 17 For each such injury set forth the amount 18 of said alleged damages, the method for computing 19 same and specify which of the Defendants is alleged 2.0 to have caused same. And then a four paragraph 21 response. 22 Showing you paragraph one, where it talks 23 about I suffered lost of career opportunities, 24 damage to my reputation, emotional distress,

25

physical pain and suffering, attorney's fee,

- 1 embarrassment and ridicule.
- With respect to that paragraph, what loss
- 3 of career opportunities you are alleging occurred as
- 4 a result of the incident specified in your
- 5 complaint?
- 6 A I feel like career opportunities, I don't
- 7 want to go further in my career any more, I am ready
- 8 to retire. I wanted to stay in my profession a lot
- 9 longer than I do now. It has just been too
- 10 stressful, too much of a strain.
- 11 Q You say you wanted to go further, did you
- 12 want to go further in terms of the number of years as
- 13 a teacher or taking courses in administration or
- 14 something of that nature?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q With regard to taking, getting college
- 17 credits, had you made any plans prior to May 2014 to
- 18 do so?
- 19 A No.
- 20 Q Did you have any said idea of what type
- of college classes you wanted to take?
- 22 A No.
- 23 O Was it in the education field or
- 24 something else?
- 25 A No, it was in the education field, I

- 1 didn't know what I was going to be doing.
- 2 Q I believe you said you just want to
- 3 pretty much pack it up, paraphrasing, pack it up.
- 4 Have you had a set retirement plan prior to
- 5 May 2014?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q You decided how many years you wanted to
- 8 work?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q As you sit here today do you have a time
- line of when you intend to retire?
- 12 A No.
- 13 Q As you sit here today do you intend to
- 14 continue teaching next year?
- 15 A I don't know.
- 16 Q Have you discussed with anyone whether
- 17 professionally or a friend or family member the
- 18 reasons why you don't know if you are going to teach
- 19 next year?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can
- answer.
- 22 A It is a very hard line, this has taken a
- 23 lot out of me. I had a lot more, it has just taken
- 24 a lot out of me the last two years.
- 25 Q Have you spoken to anyone about that?

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1	А	Family.
2	Q	Who in your family have you spoken to?
3	A	My daughter.
4	Q	Which daughter?
5	A	I have three.
6	Q	Which daughter?
7	А	My youngest and my middle daughter.
8	Q	Their names?
9	A	Melissa and Amy.
10	Q	Have you spoken to any counselor or
11	clergyman?	
12	А	No.
13	Q	Social worker or psychiatrist?
14	А	No.
15	Q	Your sister?
16	A	My sister.
17	Q	What about Mr. Drinkwater?
18	А	No, no.
19	Q	You claim that your reputation has been
20	damaged.	Can you explain what the damage is to
21	your reput	ation?
22		MR. WOLIN: Objection.
23	Q	Is it something that is tangible, that
24	you can po	int to?
25	A	I don't know about tangible, but the

- 1 entire school knows what went on. I don't know if
- 2 everybody knows what really went on. There is
- 3 gossip and rumors and things like that.
- 4 Q Have people spoken to you about that day
- 5 or that incident?
- 6 A They have tried to, yes.
- 7 Q When they have tried to, what do they try
- 8 to do, engage in conversation or have --
- 9 A Yes, engage me in conversation.
- 11 heard?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q What do they say, generally speaking?
- 14 MR. WOLIN: Objection, you can
- answer.
- 16 A Just they are asking me, you know, why,
- 17 you know, why did Mr. Braswell put you in the psych
- 18 ward, they call it the loony bin. They make all
- 19 kinds of little comments.
- 20 Q Generally speaking, what was your
- 21 response?
- 22 A I told them I don't want to talk about
- 23 it.
- 24 Q Talk about physical pain and suffering.
- 25 Can you explain what physical pain and suffering,

- 1 other than the migraine and the chest pains as a
- 2 result of the incident of May 28th?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection, other than
- 4 what she has testified to. She testified
- 5 to stomach pains and other symptoms.
- Rather than limiting it, why don't
- 7 you say other than what you testified to.
- MS. BEN-SOREK: I will rephrase it.
- 9 O As a result of the interaction with
- 10 Officer Stassi and Officer Amodeo have you had any
- 11 loss of career opportunities?
- MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 13 A I'm not sure.
- 14 O You testified at the time the officers
- 15 arrived at your sister's home there was no
- 16 ambulance?
- 17 A No, not when they showed up.
- 18 Q An ambulance did come at some point?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 O That was an Ambulance Technician Field?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Did the ambulance technician ask you any
- 23 questions about your well being?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q Did he take any vital statistics, vital

- 1 signs?
- 2 Α No.
- 3 Was there any conversation between you Q
- and the ambulance?
- 5 Α I don't believe so.
- 6 Let me also include, have you suffered
- any loss of career opportunities as a result of any
- 8 interaction you had with the ambulance technician?
- 9 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 10 А No.
- 11 What, if any, damage to your reputation
- 12 are you alleging occurred as a result of Officer
- 13 Stassi, Officer Amodeo and AMT Field?
- 14 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 15 Α Being taken against my will to the
- 16 psychiatric center.
- 17 Other than you and your sister, did
- 18 anyone know at the time you were being taken to the
- 19 psychiatric ward?
- 20 MR. WOLIN: Objection.
- 21 Α The neighbors in my sister's
- 22 neighborhood.
- 23 Who told the neighbors you were being
- 24 taken to the psychiatric ward?
- 25 Α Not the psychiatric ward, but that the

- 1 police had come to my sister's house and the
- 2 ambulance was there.
- 3 Q Had you ever seen, prior to the 28th of
- 4 May 20143, had you ever seen an ambulance arrive to
- 5 assist anyone else within the Roosevelt, Freeport
- 6 area?
- 7 A Probably, yes.
- 8 Q When you have seen those ambulances, have
- 9 you also seen police cars?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Have you ever formed an opinion that
- 12 something must have been wrong that the police and
- 13 an ambulance were there, about those other people
- 14 that you have seen?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q In the next paragraph, four lines down,
- 17 you state, as a result of the Defendant's actions I
- 18 was falsely imprisoned, victim of assault and
- 19 battery and suffered loss of liberty.
- When you say you were falsely imprisoned,
- 21 are you referring to the time you were taken to the
- 22 hospital against you will?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q Would you say that was suffering loss of
- 25 liberty as well?

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1	А	Yes.
2	Q	With respect to the victim of assault and
3	battery, wh	o assaulted you and battered you?
4	А	Just being in that place with those
5	people. Th	ere was a lot of people that were
6	mentally un	stable that I was locked in with.
7	Q	When you say that place and that facility
8	do you	
9	A	That hospital.
10	Q	Nassau University Medical Center?
11	A	Yes.
12	Q	Did anybody physically touch you?
13	Α :	No, just verbally.
14	Q	Who verbally, who did anything to you
15	verbally?	
16	A	A gentleman that was in there.
17	Q	Was the gentleman a patient?
18	A	Yes.
19	Q	What, if anything, did this gentleman do
20	or say?	
21	A	He had a foot fetish and he was asking me
22	to go home	with him.
23	Q	At that time that this other patient made
24	that remark	to you, was either the AMT or either of
25	the police	officers there?

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1	А	No.
2	Q	They had already left?
3	A	Yes.
4	Q	They signed you in and left?
5	А	Yes.
6	Q	When you were interviewed by the medical
7	staff at t	he hospital, did you indicate to them the
8	colloquy t	hat occurred at the nurse's office?
9	А	I'm sorry?
10	Q	When you were interviewed or evaluated by
11	the staff	at the hospital, did they, did you explain
12	to them th	e colloquy that occurred at the nurse's
13	office?	
14		Did you try and explain what Dr. Wright
15	had done,	that it had been a joke and Ms. Higgins
16	asked you	if you would hurt yourself?
17	А	I don't remember.
18		MS. BEN-SOREK: Let me take a minute.
19		(Whereupon, a discussion was held off
20	the r	ecord.)
21		MR. WOLIN: The only thing I ask is,
22	since	we did refer to at least one of the
23	Respo	nses, the interrogatories that we
24	mark	it.
25		MS. BEN-SOREK: Here is the original,

120 1 we will mark that. 2 (Whereupon, Responses were marked Defendant's Exhibit B for identification, 3 as of this date.) 5 Other than when the police mentioned that 6 they received a call from Ms. Higgins at the school, as you sit here today are you aware of any other communication between any of the officers or AMT and any school district personnel related to you and the 10 events of May 28, 2014? 11 Could you repeat that again? 12 I will rephrase it. The police officers 13 mentioned to you they received a call from 14 Ms. Higgins on May 28, 2014, correct, when they came 1.5 to your sister's home? 16 А Okay. 17 Other than that communication, as you sit 18 here today, have you learned whether or not these 19 said police officers, Amodeo and Stassi and the AMT 20 had any other communications with the school 21 district related to you? 2.2 Yes. 23 What have you learned? 0 24 Α They didn't know where my sister lived, 25 so they went and questioned my friend and asked her

- 1 where my sister lived.
- 2 When did that occur? 0
- 3 Α Not sure.
- 0 Is that before the officers went to your
- sister's home? 5
- 6 Α Yes.
- Do you know whether that communication
- was by telephone with the officers?
- No, Ms. Higgins, brought the police
- officers into her classroom. 10
- 11 Is it your understanding that the police
- 12 officers received a call and they responded to the
- 13 school, spoke with Ms. Higgins; is that correct?
- 14 Α Yes.
- 15 Ms. Higgins brought them to your friend's
- 16 classroom to find out your sister's address?
- 17 Α Yes.
- 18 Which friend is that?
- 19 Α Ms. Beno.
- 20 Ms. Beno provided your sister's address
- 21 as far as you know to the police officers responding
- 22 to your sister home?
- 23 Α Yes.
- 24 Other than that communication with
- 25 Ms. Beno and Ms. Higgins are you aware of any other

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1	communica	ations as you sit here today?
2	А	No.
3	Q	Are you aware of any media report or
4	coverage	related to you and your case in March 2014?
5	А	Yes.
6	Q	What media outlet was that?
7	А	New York Post.
8	Q	Do you know the name of the reporter?
9	А	I did know it for a while, but I don't
10	recall.	
11	Q	Are you aware of how the Post became
12	aware of	this story?
13	A	From what I am told, it is the reporter
14	that goes	to the Courts and looks through the cases,
15	the case	reporter or whatever she is.
16	Q	A female reporter?
17	A	Yes.
18	Q	Did this individual contact you?
19	A	No.
20	Q	Do you know who they contacted?
21		MR. WOLIN: Objection, if they
22	cont	acted anybody.
23	A	No.
24	Q	Did you ever speak with that reporter?
25	A	No.

123 Subsequent to the article being 1 2 broadcast, published, did you contact the reporter of the New York Post? А No. MS. BEN-SOREK: Nothing further. (Whereupon, the examination of this witness was concluded at 1:08 p.m.) 8 STATE OF NEW YORK)SS.: COUNTY OF 10 I have read the foregoing record of my 11 testimony taken at the time and place noted in the 12 heading hereof and I do hereby acknowledge it to be 13 a true and correct transcript of same. 14 15 JUSAN MCCARTHY 16 17 Subscribed and sworn to before me 18 this 4th ___ day of <u>March</u> 2016. 19 20 21 22 TRILLA EEEVAN Matary Public, Stare of New York 23 Qualified in Massau County 2018 Commission Expires March 9. -24 25

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1	CERTIFICATION
2	
3	I, SUSAN DEGENNARO, a Notary Public for and
4	within the State of New York, do hereby certify:
5	That the testimony in the within proceeding
6	was held before me at the aforesaid time and place.
7	That said witness was duly sworn before the
8	commencement of the testimony, and that the
9	testimony was taken stenographically by me, then
10	transcribed under my supervision, and that the
11	within transcript is a true record of the testimony
12	of said witness.
13	I further certify that I am not related to
14	any of the parties to this action by blood or by
15	marriage, that I am not interested directly or
16	indirectly in the matter in controversy, nor am I
17	in the employ of any of the counsel.
18	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
19	hand this 25th day of January, 2016.
20	
21	
22	SUSAN DECENNARO
23	BOBAN DEGENERACE *
24	

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Sworn to before me this	4 Hh
day of March	

Notary Public

UILLA FIENTAN
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